

CITY OF LAS VEGAS



# Master Plan Parks Element

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Prepared by the  
Comprehensive Planning Division  
of the  
Planning and Development Department

Adopted March 15, 2000



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# Master Plan Parks Element

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the Master Plan Parks Element is to provide a strategy for an adequate amount of parks and recreational facilities in convenient and accessible locations to best serve the needs of the community. Its principles and standards serve as a guide for the formulation of a five-year capital improvements program as well as a basis for programming capital projects over a 20 year time period to satisfy the community's long-range needs for parks and recreational opportunities at full build-out.

The Parks Element evaluates the present parks system in light of recognized national standards and identifies the adequacies and deficiencies of the present system. It evaluates the spatial distribution, accessibility, location, quantity, size and facilities of the community's existing parks. Projections of functional needs based on the national standards were then made to the year 2020, accounting for local conditions, constraints and preferences.

The Parks Element concludes that a ratio of 2.5 acres of strategically located neighborhood, community and regional park space for every 1,000 residents, as adopted by the Southern Nevada Strategic Planning Authority, is both a realistic and attainable goal. It also concludes that the national standard of one to two acres of neighborhood park space for each 1,000 residents should be strictly followed; state and federal parks and reserves already provide abundant regional recreational opportunities for the community.

The Parks Element identifies a need for an additional 84 neighborhood parks, most of which are shown in undeveloped or ranch estates areas where the parks would be provided during the course of development when and if it occurs. Deficiencies in neighborhood park space have also been identified in older areas of the community.

All together, the Parks Element identifies a need for an additional 1550 acres of park land for the next 20 years when total build-out of the community is anticipated. At an average cost of \$250,000 an acre to develop parks, a total of \$387.5 million or \$19.38 million per year in projected funding will be needed during this time frame for this purpose. This cost does not include land acquisition and annual maintenance.

The Parks Element indicates that approximately \$5,000 per acre per year is needed for the maintenance of park land. It is important that the expenses for maintenance be budgeted annually to sustain the park system and keep it in good condition. Including parks, school parks and greenways, there are 856 acres of land the



*Aloha Shores*



City maintains. At \$5,000 per acre, \$4.28 million should be set aside for maintenance in the annual operating budget separate for this purpose. For each 78 acres added per year to the parks inventory to 2020, an additional \$390,000 per year should be added to the annual budget.

Finding the revenues necessary to implement these needs will be difficult. Raising the “residential construction tax” is one alternative, since it provides only a fourth to a third of the amount of funding needed to provide neighborhood parks for new developments, not including parks in already developed areas. A legislative increase in the amount of this tax and the use of bonds are sources that should be explored.

“Transfers of reversionary interest (TRI),” is a mechanism which might allow the City to exchange land owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for non-federal lands. The BLM currently has not established procedures or standards for implementing TRI’s. The City should pursue this option with the BLM which could save the City a substantial amount of money to acquire land for parks in already developed areas.

The planning process was initiated with a studio or charrette held on August 11, 1999. Staff from several departments met to discuss goals, objectives and standards applicable to a parks plan, and deficiencies in the present system.

A large number of groups participated in the development of the Parks Element. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), composed of various staff members from several departments, was formed to provide input throughout the planning process. In addition, a Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC), composed of persons involved or interested in parks and recreation from the local agencies and private organizations, met four times to help formulate the plan.

Eleven neighborhood meetings and workshops were held throughout the community over a three month period to inform the public of the proposed planning process and to solicit public input. Prior to these meetings, all registered neighborhood associations were notified by mail, two advertisements were placed in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, advertisements in Spanish were placed in the *El Herald de Las Vegas*, all community input meeting attendees were notified by mail, all members of the Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan Steering Committee were notified by mail, and a promotional story was run on KVVU-TV (FOX 5) News. Presentations on the Parks Element were made to the City Council on September 15, 1999 and to the Planning Commission on December 15, 1999. The Planning Commission unanimously adopted the plan on January 27, 2000.



# MASTER PLAN PARKS ELEMENT

## INTRODUCTION

### PURPOSE

Las Vegas has experienced extraordinary growth in the last 10 years because of a strong economy and an expanding tourist industry. The city's 1990 population was established at 258,295 and the July 1, 1998 population estimate stands at 448,244. This is a 50% increase in population within eight years. There were 29 city parks in 1991; there are 40 city parks presently.

Because of the growth and changes taking place in the community, it is essential that a parks plan be developed and approved that contains:

- A plan for the future number, location and function of parks and recreational facilities based upon recognized standards for providing optimum park and recreational opportunities for the entire community.
- A plan for the development of a comprehensive parks system to the year 2020 or full build-out of the community.
- Standards, criteria, and priorities that enable the City to make rational decisions on the expenditure of public funds for the acquisition, improvement and operation of existing and future parks and recreational facilities for the entire community.

Both parks and trails make up the city's recreation system. Parks primarily serve as areas for active and passive recreational use. Trails are designed to serve recreational needs and also serve as transportation corridors which connect recreational sites, parks, residences, schools, and shopping and employment centers. Because of the complexity of issues and funding methods, the master plan Trails Element is addressed in a separate plan document.

### ENABLING LEGISLATION

Section 278.150 through Section 278.230 of the Nevada Revised Statutes contain the enabling legislation for the development and adoption of a master plan. Section 278.160 lists the specific elements of a master plan that may be addressed, including a "recreation plan." A recreation plan is to show "a comprehensive system of recreation areas, including natural reservations, parks, parkways, reserved riverbank strips, beaches, playgrounds and other recreation areas, including, when practicable, the locations and proposed development thereof."



*Angel Park*

The master plan is “a comprehensive, long-term general plan for the physical development of the city” (NRS 278.150) which when adopted is binding upon all future development. Accordingly, the recommendations, principles and criteria of the Parks Element will, upon its adoption, also be binding.

## **LAS VEGAS GENERAL PLAN (MASTER PLAN)**

The City of Las Vegas (City) adopted a General Plan on April 1, 1992 that contains a section on leisure and cultural facilities. In 1997 a 10 year capital improvements program for parks and recreational activities was developed, but the program was never adopted by the City Council. This Parks Element revises the General Plan to update the provisions of the 1992 Plan for parks and recreation to provide a current set of standards and guidelines for establishing a comprehensive parks system.

## **METHODOLOGY**

To prepare a plan for a complete system of recreational opportunities, it is necessary to evaluate the present parks system in light of recognized standards for such opportunities. By making these comparisons, a determination can be made of the adequacies and deficiencies that exist in the present system.

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and the American Academy for Parks and Recreation Administration publish national standards for parks and recreational facilities. These standards, developed over years of research, are recognized by most persons in the parks and recreation field as the best standards for making general comparisons. In doing so, it must be realized that local conditions, constraints and preferences need to be determined prior to establishing site specific locations and sizes for parks. This is particularly so for neighborhood parks.

The Parks Element provides the general criteria for determining the number, location and size of neighborhood parks, but in establishing each park, a neighborhood plan preceded by a needs assessment should be developed. The needs assessment will assist in determining the optimum size and location for each park and the recreational facilities needed for each particular neighborhood.

After a plan has been prepared for the establishment of a parks system, the next step is to develop an implementation strategy. The Parks Element discusses the costs and funding sources necessary for implementation of the plan. Since the cost of implementing a parks plan requires budgeting the necessary funds over an extended period of time, it will be necessary to devise a list of capital projects to be included in a capital improvements program. The list of projects will need to be prioritized for funding from the highest to lowest priority. A priority system is developed to assist in prioritizing a list of projects for the capital improvements program. Once the capital improvements program is developed and adopted, it is expected that a more detailed assessment of individual capital projects in the capital improvements program will be made each year in reviewing the annual budget.



## PLANNING PROCESS

The planning process was initiated with a studio or charrette held on August 11, 1999. Staff from several departments met to discuss goals and objectives for the parks plan, standards applicable to a parks plan, and deficiencies in the present system.

Considerable input was provided by a large number of groups and persons during the development of the Parks Element. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), composed of various staff members from several departments, was formed to provide input throughout the planning process. In addition, a Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC), composed of persons involved or interested in parks and recreation from the local agencies and private organizations, was formed. The RAC meetings were held in the Development Services Center on August 19, August 31, September 21, and November 30, 1999.

Numerous neighborhood meetings throughout the community were also held to inform the public of the proposed planning process and to solicit input. The meeting dates and locations were as follows:

- Lied Middle School, 9/7/99
- Rafael Rivera Community Center, 9/8/99
- Johnson Middle School, 9/9/99
- West Las Vegas Arts Center, 9/14/99
- West Charleston Library, 9/23/99
- Rafael Rivera Community Center, 11/9/99

Prior to each meeting, all registered neighborhood associations were notified by mail, two advertisements were placed in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, advertisements in Spanish were placed in the *El Heraldo de Las Vegas*, and for the neighborhood meetings held at the Rafael Rivera Community Center, a flyer in English and Spanish was distributed at the Center.

Two special community input meetings were held, including one on October 9, 1999 with the Northwest Coalition of Neighborhood Associations at the Santa Fe Hotel and Casino and one with the City of Las Vegas Parks and Recreation Advisory Board on October 13, 1999.

Public workshops were also held to solicit input. The workshop dates and locations were as follows:

- Oran K. Gragson Elementary School, 12/7/99
- Ruthe Deskin Elementary School, 12/8/99
- West Charleston Library, 12/9/99.



*An San Park*

Prior to each workshop, all registered neighborhood associations, all community input meeting attendees, and all members of the Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan Steering Committee were notified by mail and two advertisements were placed in the Las Vegas *Review-Journal*. A promotional story was run on KVVU-TV (FOX 5) News for one of the workshops.

A presentation on the Parks Element was made to the City Council on September 15, 1999 and to the Planning Commission on December 15, 1999. The Planning Commission unanimously adopted the Parks Element on January 27, 1999 and it was subsequently referred to the City Council for final consideration.

Numerous comments were received from the RAC and TAC members and have been addressed in the Parks Element. Since planning is a continuous process, additional comments, including necessary changes in the recommendations, principles and criteria made after the Parks Element is adopted will be incorporated in the Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan and by amendment of the Master Plan thereafter.

## TERMS

Certain terms used in this plan document have certain meanings and need defining. The definitions of these terms are those having the common meanings as used by the NRPA as follows:

**Community Park:** A park that serves a broader purpose than neighborhood parks, has from 25 to 50 acres of land area, and serves those residents within three miles.

**Mini Park/Urban Plaza:** A park smaller than a neighborhood park, has no more than one acre of land, and serves those residents within one-quarter mile.

**Neighborhood Park:** A park that serves as the recreational and social focus of a neighborhood, has from five to 10 acres of land, and serves those residents within one-half mile.

**Open Space:** An area that is not intended for recreational use. Such areas may be present in their natural state or may be improved with landscaping. The perimeter landscaping along a development or the median strips in a boulevard are examples.

**Park:** That portion of a land surface which is designated for recreational use. A park and recreational area as used herein are synonymous. There are two types of recreational areas: active and passive. An active recreational area is an area set aside for vigorous or energetic use such as child play and active sports. A passive recreational area is an area designed for leisure activities such as picnicking.

**Recreation:** An activity beyond that required for personal or family maintenance, i.e. for enjoyment rather than for survival.



**Recreational Area:** A park.

**Recreational Facility:** An apparatus or improved area provided to accommodate certain recreational uses. Playgrounds, sports courts and fields, swimming pools and golf courses are examples.

**Recreational Use:** The occupation, utilization, consumption or enjoyment of a recreational area.

**Regional Park:** A large park that meets the broad needs of the community, has over 50 acres of land area, and serves those residents within approximately eight miles.

**School Park:** A school play ground and sports field that may be open for public use during times that the school is closed.



## PARKS COMPARISON

To evaluate the present parks system, the system is compared to national standards that provide general guidance on the location and spacing of parks, the number of parks, and what facilities should be provided in parks. Making a comparison of the present parks system to national standards reveals whether the present system has surpluses or deficiencies in each of these areas as compared to national standards.

For the past 30 years, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has been involved in developing recommended guidelines and standards for parks and recreation. These guidelines and standards, recognized by most if not all the leading professionals in parks and recreation planning, provide the best source for analyzing the present parks system and are shown in Table #1. In 1971, the NRPA first published the *National Park, Recreation and Open Space Standards*. The standards were updated in 1983 and published as the *Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines*. The NRPA more recently published the *Park Planning Guidelines*, third addition, in 1997 and a publication entitled *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines* in 1995. These publications were referenced extensively in the Parks Element.

The NRPA standards were compared to the present parks system in three areas: (1) location and spatial distribution of parks; (2) quantity and size of parks and (3) recreational facilities in parks. Accordingly, a spatial analysis section addresses whether the parks are properly located for the population they serve, a demographic analysis section addresses whether parks are of adequate size and quantity for the population served, and a functional analysis section establishes current and future recreational facility needs by activity type.



*Baker Park*

**TABLE 1. PARK CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM**

CLASSIFICATION	DESCRIPTION	SIZE	SERVICE AREA
Mini Park / Urban Plaza	Small parks in urban, high density and commercial office and retail areas.	Up to 1 acre.	Less than 1/4 mile radius.
Neighborhood Park	Serves as the recreational and social focus of a neighborhood. Design should include informal active and passive recreation.	5 to 10 acres.	From 1/4 mile to 1/2 mile radius, with recognition of barriers that might restrict direct access.
Community Park	Serves a broader purpose than neighborhood parks. May contain passive and programmed recreation facilities.	25 to 50 acres.	Up to 3 mile radius.
Regional Park	Large parks that meet the broad needs of the community. The design is intended for passive and programmed recreation activities as well as preserving unique landscapes and open space.	> 50 acres.	> up to 8 miles.
School Park	School play grounds and ball fields. High school and special school fields generally not open for public use.	5 acres.	From 1/4 mile to 1/2 mile radius.
Natural Resource	Land set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering. These areas function with limited improvements and without active play or programmed areas.	Variable.	Variable.
Greenways & Beautification	Effectively tie park systems components together to form a continuous park environment.	Variable.	Variable.
Sports Complex	Consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically throughout the community. Examples include the Municipal Pool and Soccer Park.	Minimum 25 acres; 40 to 80 acres being optimal.	Strategically located community-wide facilities.
Special Use	Single purpose use facilities that are specialized and oriented to single purpose use such as model airplane flying, horse riding, or dog fanciers parks.	Variable.	Variable.
Private Park / Recreation Facility	Parks and recreation facilities that are privately owned yet contribute to the public park and recreation system.	Variable – dependent upon specific use.	Variable.
Golf Courses	Private and public in operation. Cater to specific segment of population and are similar to a special use facility.	Variable.	Entire community.



## SPATIAL ANALYSIS

The NRPA has classifications for several types of parks as shown in Table #1. The City owns and operates mini-parks/urban plazas, neighborhood parks, community parks, and regional parks. In addition, the City maintains some school parks. The City has one greenway which is along the perimeter of Pueblo Trail that connects three neighborhood parks. The only other major type of recreational facility that the City operates are four golf courses. The other recreational areas identified in the table are provided by private entities.

Ideally, every park and recreational facility of each type or classification should be located within the appropriate distance indicated of every resident. It is important to note that all parks provide service at the neighborhood level, regardless of their sizes and, therefore, serve as neighborhood parks. For example, although the 29 acres that comprise Children's Memorial Park is categorized as a community park, that park also serves the local neighborhood and thus functions as both a neighborhood park and a community park. The same is true of regional parks as these parks also provide service at the community level and neighborhood level.

It should be noted, however, that recreational facilities located in community and regional parks may not be in locations that are easily accessible or within the recommended maximum half-mile distance to neighborhood residents. In this instance, the community and regional parks fail to provide adequate neighborhood park service.

### *Existing Conditions*

There are a number of recreational areas presently located within the community. These include City-owned parks, school parks and private parks that are accessible to the general public. These areas have been inventoried to determine the present level of parks and recreational opportunities and are discussed below.

### **CITY-OWNED PARKS**

Currently there are 40 City-owned and maintained parks within the community. A detailed inventory of the City-owned parks, which includes an assessment of the acreage, the recreational facilities that each contains, and a discussion of needed or planned improvements, is presented in Appendix A. The locations of these parks are illustrated on Map #1. Based on the criteria established for classifying parks, there are three mini-parks/urban plazas (7.5 percent), 30 neighborhood parks (75 percent), five community parks (12.5 percent) and two regional parks (five percent). Map #2 shows the locations and service boundaries of the City's neighborhood, community and regional parks. The regional parks are shown by the larger of the three service area radii, the community parks



*Bob Baskin Park*

with the next smaller radius, and the neighborhood parks with the smallest radius.

It should be noted that the service area radii do not reflect all access barriers to the parks shown. These barriers, however, are taken into consideration in identifying the general locations of the parks on the parks plan.

## NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

A neighborhood park, according to the standards, "Serves as the recreational and social focus of a neighborhood." This description requires some discussion of what constitutes a neighborhood.

In planning theory, there are two types of neighborhoods: a physical neighborhood and a social neighborhood. Since a physical neighborhood has distinct identifiable boundaries, unlike social neighborhoods, it is the physical neighborhood that is of interest here.

The American Public Health Association, Committee on the Hygiene of Housing, is recognized as one of the first agencies to develop standards for neighborhood planning. In its publication entitled *Planning the Neighborhood: Standards for Healthful Housing* (1960), a neighborhood is defined as the geographic area within which residents may all conveniently share common services and facilities required in the vicinity of their dwellings. For planning purposes, the extent of the neighborhood, with boundaries that are generally set by major streets, is determined by the service area of an elementary school and a neighborhood park.

Since the maximum recommended service area of a neighborhood park is a half-mile radius, the maximum size of a neighborhood should be no more than approximately one mile square with the neighborhood park located central to the neighborhood. This is vitally important, as neighborhoods with boundaries formed by major arterial streets should not have neighborhood parks located where persons are encouraged to cross major arterial streets to access them.

Map #3 shows the locations and service areas of 37 neighborhood parks, including the regional parks and community parks which serve as neighborhood parks. Some areas of the city appear better served than others as indicated by overlapping park service boundaries. Examples of this overlap are located in portions of the West Las Vegas neighborhood, portions of the Charleston Heights neighborhood, Pueblo Village in Summerlin, the Hyde Park neighborhood, and the Stewart/28th Street vicinity. This is in contrast to many of the city's neighborhoods where neighborhood parks are non-existent.

While many of the existing parks may meet the spatial criteria of the national standards, they fail to meet the need for parks in this community based on demographic and func-

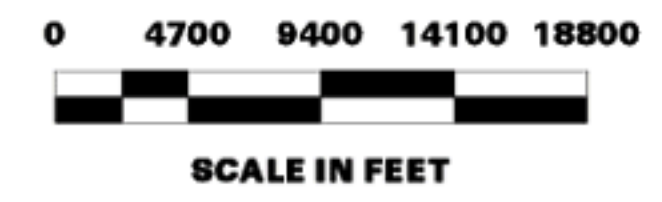
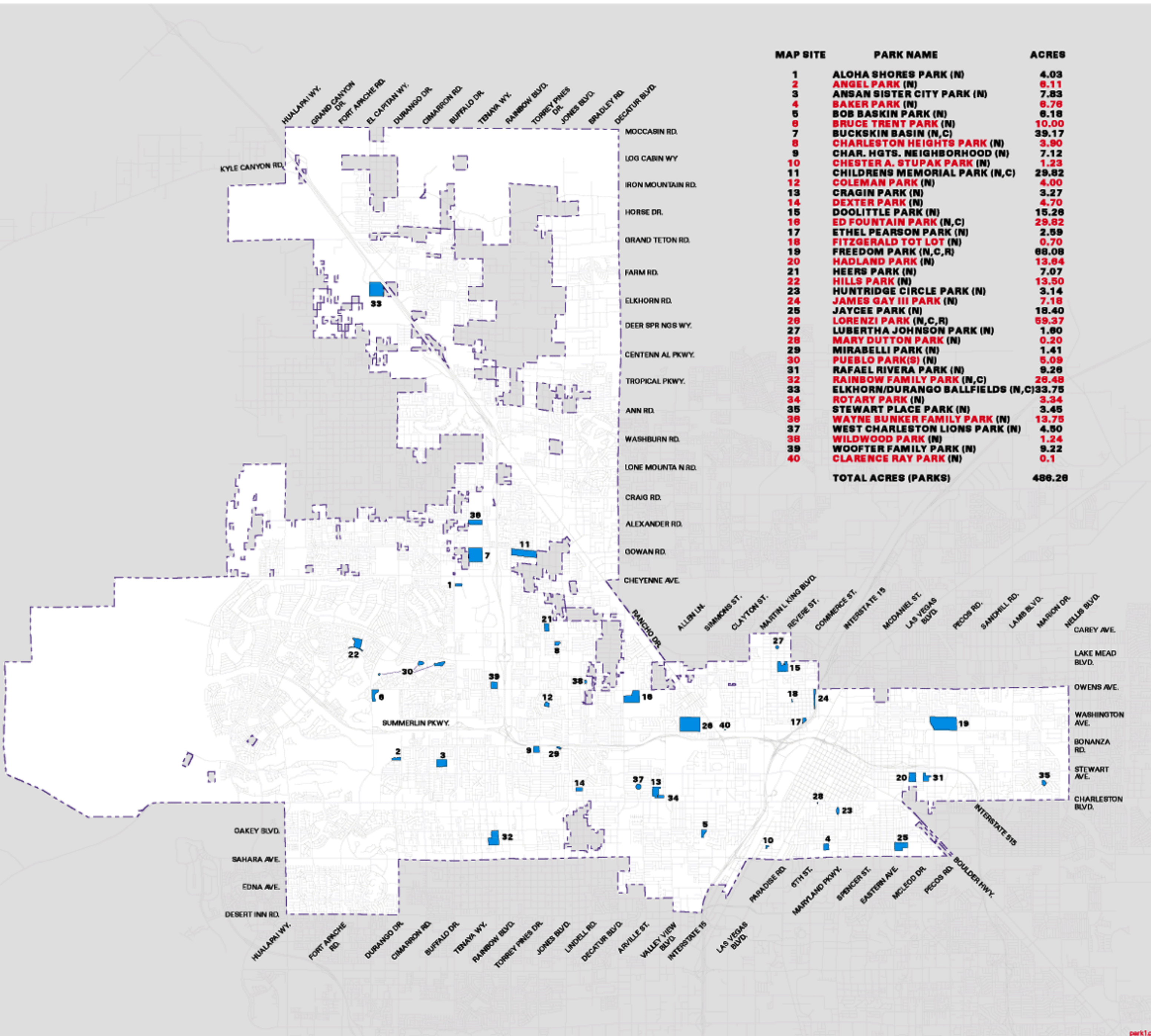


City of Las Vegas

# MAP 1

## Parks Element

### Existing City Parks



GIS maps are normally produced only to meet the needs of the City. Due to continuous development activity this map is for reference only.  
**Geographic Information System**  
Comprehensive Planning  
702-229-6022




March 22, 2001

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT  
CITY OF LAS VEGAS  
Development Services Center

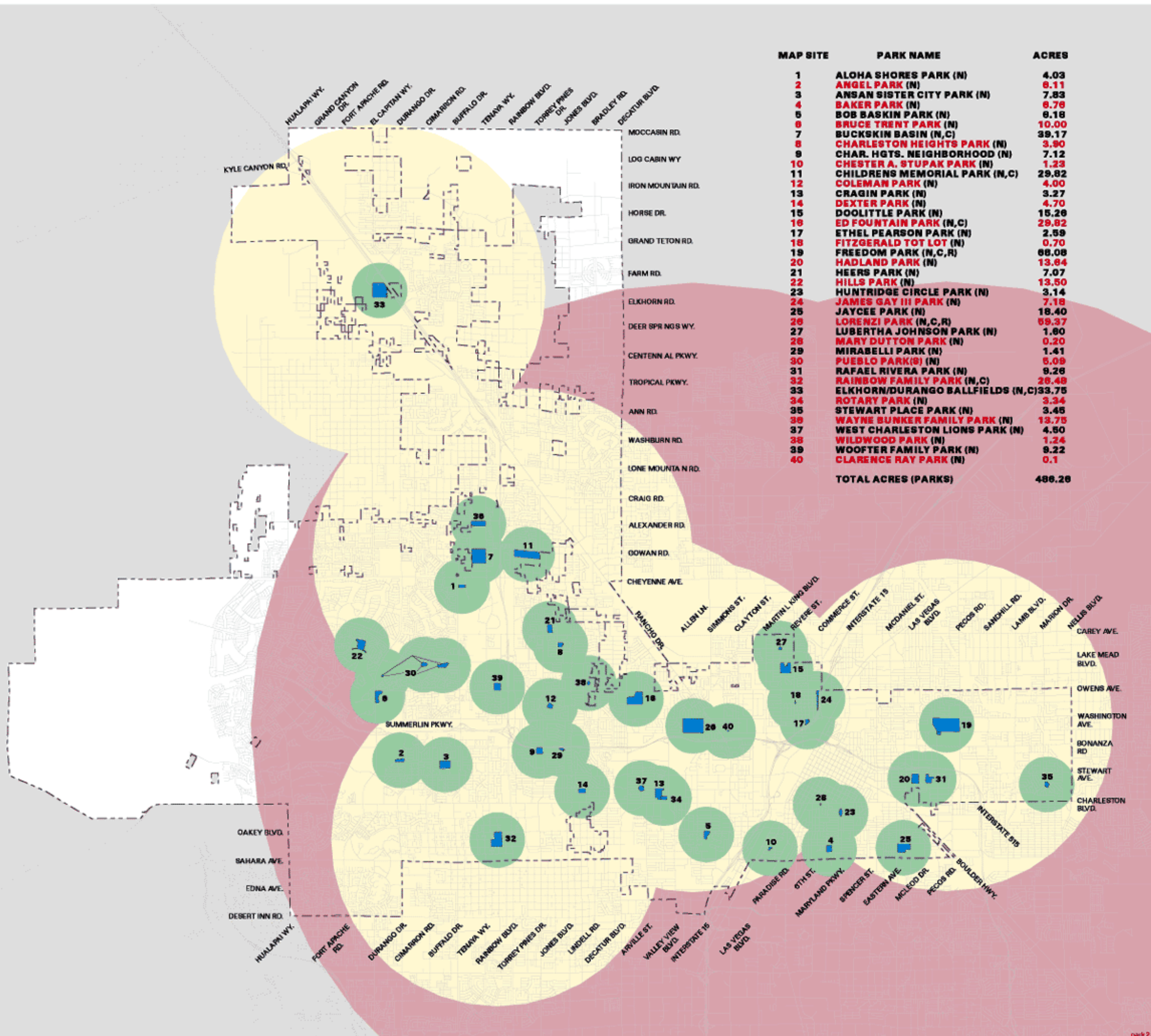
# MAP 2

## Parks Element

### Existing City Parks Service Areas

-  Regional (8 mile radius)
-  Community (3 mile radius)
-  Neighborhood (1/2 mile radius)

MAP SITE	PARK NAME	ACRES
1	ALOHA SHORES PARK (N)	4.03
2	ANGEL PARK (N)	8.11
3	ANSAN SISTER CITY PARK (N)	7.83
4	BAKER PARK (N)	8.78
5	BOB BASKIN PARK (N)	8.18
6	BRUCE TRENT PARK (N)	10.00
7	BUCKSKIN BASIN (N,C)	39.17
8	CHARLESTON HEIGHTS PARK (N)	3.90
9	CHAR. HGTS. NEIGHBORHOOD (N)	7.12
10	CHESTER A. STUPAK PARK (N)	1.23
11	CHILDRENS MEMORIAL PARK (N,C)	29.82
12	COLEMAN PARK (N)	4.00
13	CRAIN PARK (N)	3.27
14	DEXTER PARK (N)	4.70
15	DOOLITTLE PARK (N)	15.26
16	ED FOUNTAIN PARK (N,C)	29.82
17	ETHEL PEARSON PARK (N)	2.59
18	FITZGERALD TOT LOT (N)	0.70
19	FREEDOM PARK (N,C,R)	68.08
20	HADLAND PARK (N)	13.84
21	HEERS PARK (N)	7.07
22	HILLS PARK (N)	13.50
23	HUNTRIDGE CIRCLE PARK (N)	3.14
24	JAMES GAY III PARK (N)	7.18
25	JAYCEE PARK (N)	18.40
26	LORENZI PARK (N,C,R)	69.37
27	LUBERTHA JOHNSON PARK (N)	1.60
28	MARY DUTTON PARK (N)	0.20
29	MIRABELLI PARK (N)	1.41
30	PUEBLO PARK (N)	6.09
31	RAFAEL RIVERA PARK (N)	9.26
32	RAINBOW FAMILY PARK (N,C)	26.48
33	ELKHORN/DURANGO BALLFIELDS (N,C)	33.75
34	ROTARY PARK (N)	3.34
35	STEWART PLACE PARK (N)	3.45
36	WAYNE BUNKER FAMILY PARK (N)	13.75
37	WEST CHARLESTON LIONS PARK (N)	4.50
38	WILDWOOD PARK (N)	1.24
39	WOOFER FAMILY PARK (N)	9.22
40	CLARENCE RAY PARK (N)	0.1
TOTAL ACRES (PARKS)		486.26



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tional standards. In some of the older parts of the community, for example, there are parks that have inadequate recreational facilities, have poor access, or are not large enough to adequately serve the neighborhood residents. A neighborhood park with dilapidated equipment can hardly be considered functionally adequate even though it meets the spatial distribution standard, i.e. it is located within one-half mile of the neighborhood residents it serves. Other parks have accessibility limitations that also reduce their effectiveness. Huntridge Circle Park is located in the central median of Maryland Parkway, which is a high volume, high speed major arterial street. Its accessibility is severely hampered by the traffic, reducing its viability as a park. Still others, such as Mary Dutton Park with two-tenths of an acre, are not large enough to provide for active and passive recreational use. Their size limits them to those approximating mini-parks/urban plazas which will be addressed in the next section.

## COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks serve a broader purpose than neighborhood parks, focusing on meeting community-based recreation needs. They generally serve those residents located within one-half mile to three miles away. Currently, there are five parks that meet this classification system spatial criteria. Map #4 shows that with only a few exceptions, the community is well served with community parks, coupled with two regional parks that also function as community parks. The northernmost portions of the Decatur Boulevard corridor, the Lone Mountain/ Lone Mountain West planned communities, Summerlin/Sun City, portions of Peccole Ranch, and the western portion of The Lakes are currently not within three miles of a community park, the established classification system criteria.

## REGIONAL PARKS

Regional parks are intended to serve more than a community-wide demand for a range of major park facilities and to serve as a venue for major outdoor events. The service area for regional parks should include those persons residing within approximately three to eight miles from the parks, although the extent of the service area is less important than their demographic and functional characteristics. Map #5 shows their locations and service areas.

## SCHOOL PARKS

This spatial analysis takes into consideration parcels and facilities that are not owned by the City but provide recreational opportunities to the residents of the community. These include school parks with limited hours of usage to the public. For classification purposes, these facilities serve the immediate neighborhoods and are, therefore, classified as neighborhood parks in the park classification system of Table #1. However,



*Bruce Trent Park*

only the area that is available for recreational use should be considered for park purposes, with the minimum size of this component being five acres.

The City of Las Vegas and the Clark County School District have an Open Schools - Open Doors Community Access agreement that allows public use of elementary and middle school grounds as recreational areas when such schools are not in use by the school district. The school sites are reserved for school use during regular school hours, but during periods of non-school use, the City has priority use of gymnasiums, playing fields, classrooms, multi-purpose rooms, and auditoriums. Reciprocally, the School District may schedule use of the City's park sites. For example, Jaycee Park and Baker Park are City parks that are scheduled for use by school physical education classes on their play fields.

The School District Superintendent and the City Manager are responsible for scheduling use of these school parks, although this authority has traditionally been delegated to individual school principals and City Leisure Services staff. In the event that another entity desires to schedule use of a school outside of school activities, the City has first right of refusal. An annual schedule for anticipated use of the schools is submitted by the City to the School District each year prior to August 31, and this schedule is confirmed by the School District prior to September 30 of each year. These scheduling deadlines are flexible, and additional requests may be made throughout the year.

Currently, there are 64 school sites within the city limits as shown on Map #6. The agreement permits public use of 25 of these schools as illustrated on Map #7 and as listed in Table #14 of Appendix A. An additional 33 elementary and middle schools have buildings or grounds that are accessible to the public by prior arrangement with the school principles. Formal approval is not granted for use of the high schools' property by the public; however, the public is not prevented from using those facilities to which the public can gain access.

## **PRIVATE PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES**

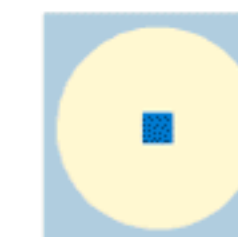
Another type of recreational area that should be spatially accounted for is parks and recreational facilities that are privately established and maintained but not restricted from use by the general public. No charge for use of the facilities is levied to nonresidents. Private parks are generally located in master planned communities, including the Summerlin community and Peccole Ranch. Table #2 lists the private parks of master planned communities and their acreage and Map #8 shows their location.

City of Las Vegas

## MAP 4

### Parks Element

City of Las Vegas  
Park Areas



City Community Park Sites  
(3 mile radius)

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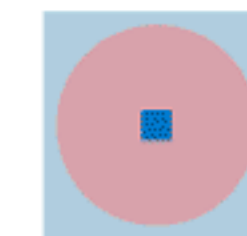


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## MAP 5

### Parks Element

City of Las Vegas  
Park Areas



City Regional Park Sites  
(8 mile radius)

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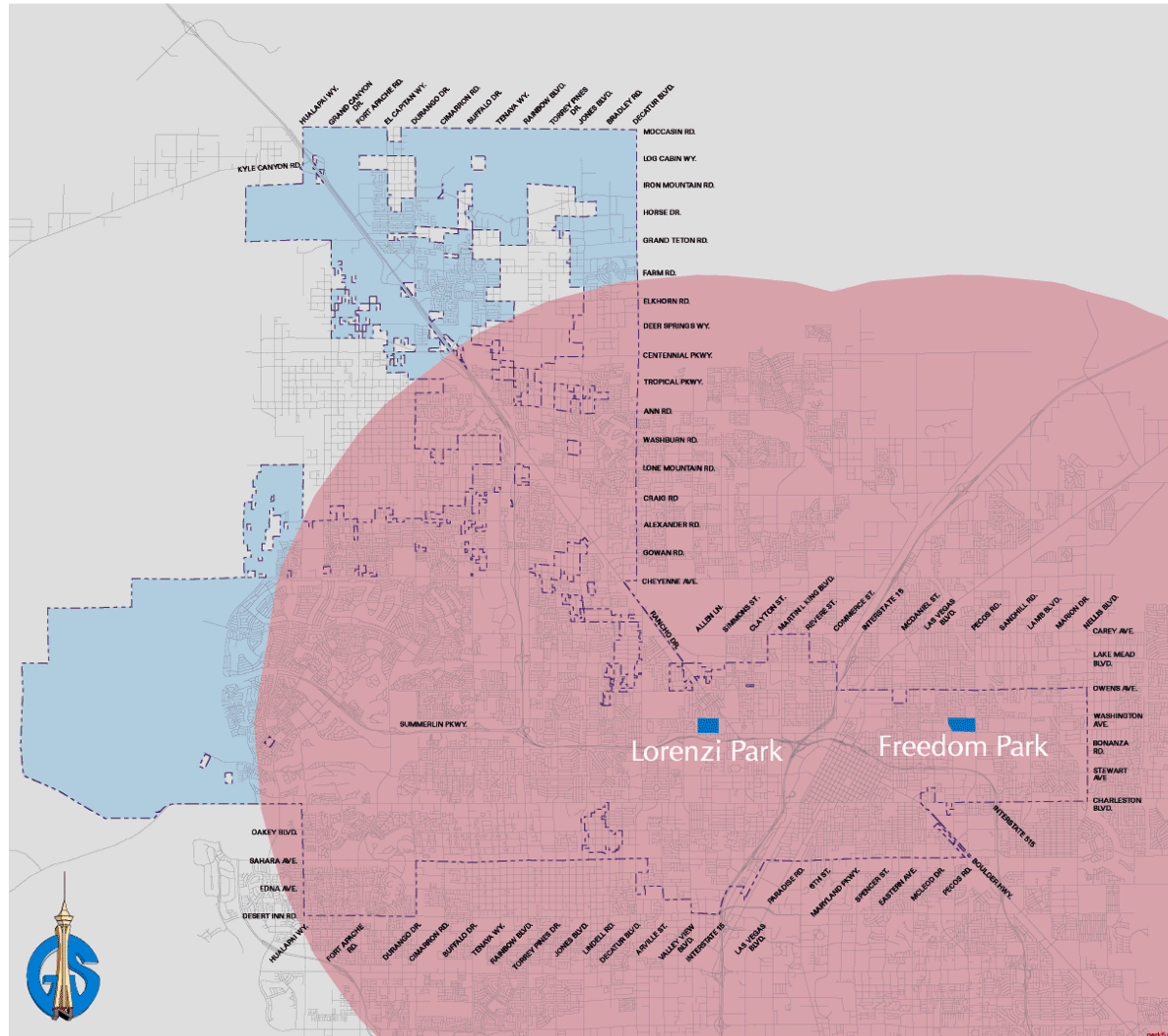
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## MAP 6

### Parks Element CCSD Schools with Acreage

#### Special Education Schools

1 Miller	8.21
2 Variety	6.28
	<b>14.49</b>

#### Alternative Schools

1 Biltmore	2.43
2 Horizon	10.23
	<b>12.66</b>

#### Elementary Schools

1 Adcock	8.06	24 Kahre	10.57
2 Bell	9.62	25 Katz	9.47
3 Bonner	8.64	26 Lummis	7.54
4 Bracken	8.05	27 Lunt	7.09
5 Bryan R.H.	10.04	28 May	7.26
6 Bunker	2.11	29 McMillan	9.44
7 Cambeiro	10.7	30 McWilliams	8.49
8 Christensen	8.91	31 Park	7.35
9 Crestwood	4.97	32 Parson	8.17
10 Culley	11.23	33 Piggott	9.83
11 Derfelt	8.54	34 Pittman	12.03
12 Deskin	8.21	35 Red Rock	6.37
13 Earl I.	7.81	36 Reed	8.36
14 Edwards	9.38	37 Rhodes	10.23
15 Eisenberg	10.55	38 Ronnow	8.92
16 Fyfe	9.51	39 Ronzone	9.73
17 Fong	9.64	40 Smith	10.14
18 Garehime	26.98	41 Sunrise Acres	17.09
19 Gragson	9.49	42 Tobler	8.44
20 Griffith	9.05	43 Twin Lakes	6.51
21 Hancock	7.67	44 Vegas Verdes	8.82
22 Hewetson	6.52	45 Warren	8.26
23 Jacobson	4.37	46 Wasden	9.63
			<b>419.79</b>

**Total Acres: 947.42**

#### High Schools

1 Advanced Technology	19.68
2 Bonanza	36.86
3 Cimarron-Memorial	38.64
4 Clark	39.96
5 Desert Pines	19.25
6 Palo Verde	56.46
7 Performing Arts	17.4
8 Western	37.76

**266.01**

#### Sixth Grade Centers

1 Booker	8.81
2 Carson	7.64
3 Hoggard	7.03
4 Kelly	4.31
5 Madison	9

**36.79**

#### Middle Schools

1 Becker	18.69
2 Brinley	17.83
3 Fremont	7.58
4 Garside	8.82
5 Gibson	20.1
6 Hyde Park	6.04
7 Johnson	20.93
8 Knudson	7.82
9 Lied	18.93
10 Martin	11.64
11 Molasky	21.1
12 Robison	18.92
13 West	19.28

**197.68**

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## MAP 7

### Parks Element

#### School Parks\*

- 1 Bell Elementary
- 2 Bracken Elementary
- 3 Carson Sixth Grade Ctr.
- 4 Culley Elementary
- 5 Earl Elementary
- 6 Edwards Elementary
- 7 Fremont Middle School
- 8 Fyfe Elementary
- 9 Hancock Elementary
- 10 Hewetson Elementary
- 11 Hoggard Sixth Grade Ctr.
- 12 Hyde Park Middle School
- 13 Johnson Middle School
- 14 Katz Elementary
- 15 Kelly Sixth Grade Ctr.
- 16 Knudson Middle School
- 17 Martin Middle School
- 18 McWilliams Elementary
- 19 Pittman Elementary
- 20 Ronnow Elementary
- 21 Ronzone Elementary
- 22 Smith Elementary
- 23 Vegas Verde Elementary
- 24 Warren Elementary
- 25 Wasden Elementary

\*School Parks under Agreement

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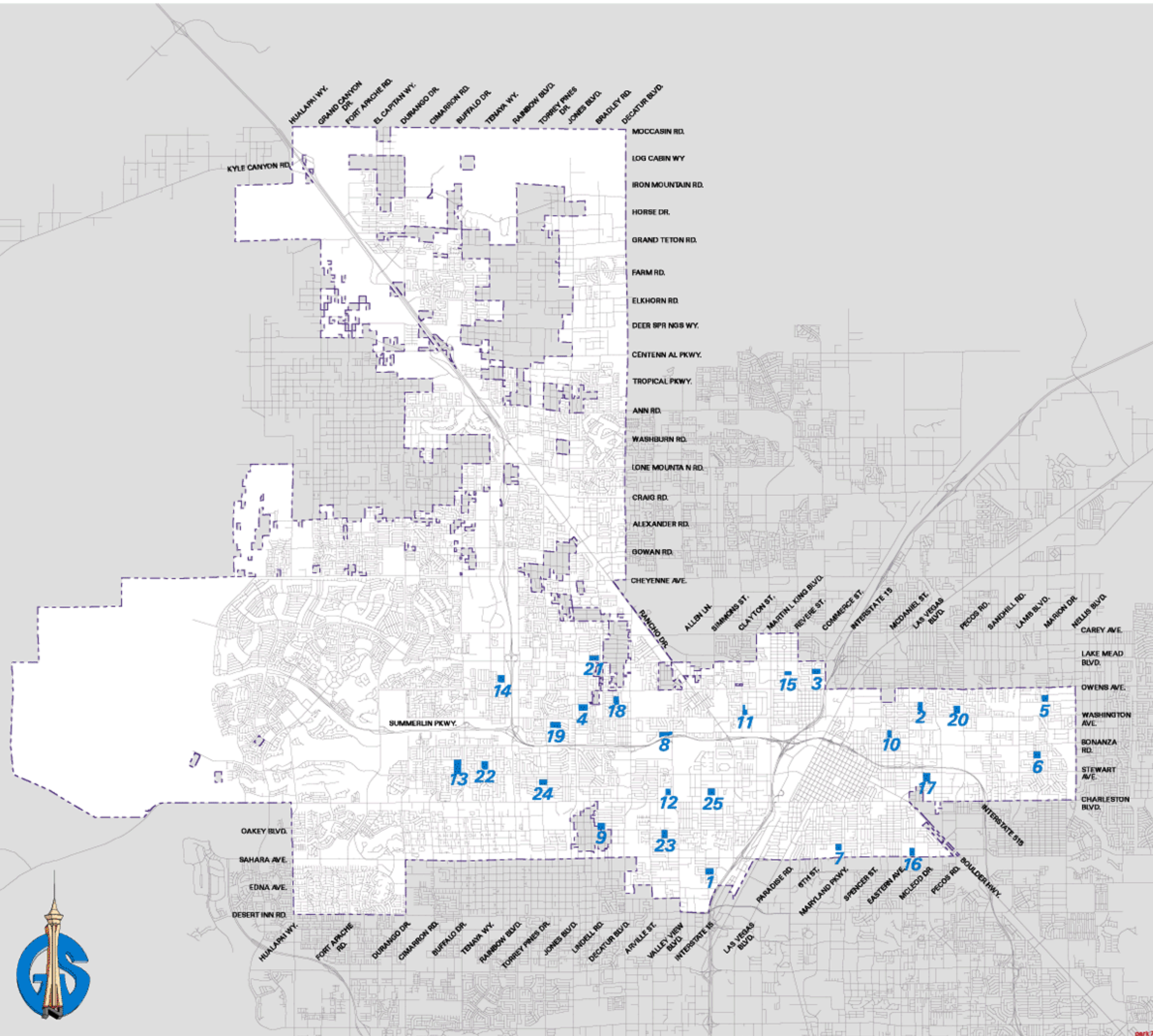
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# MAP 8

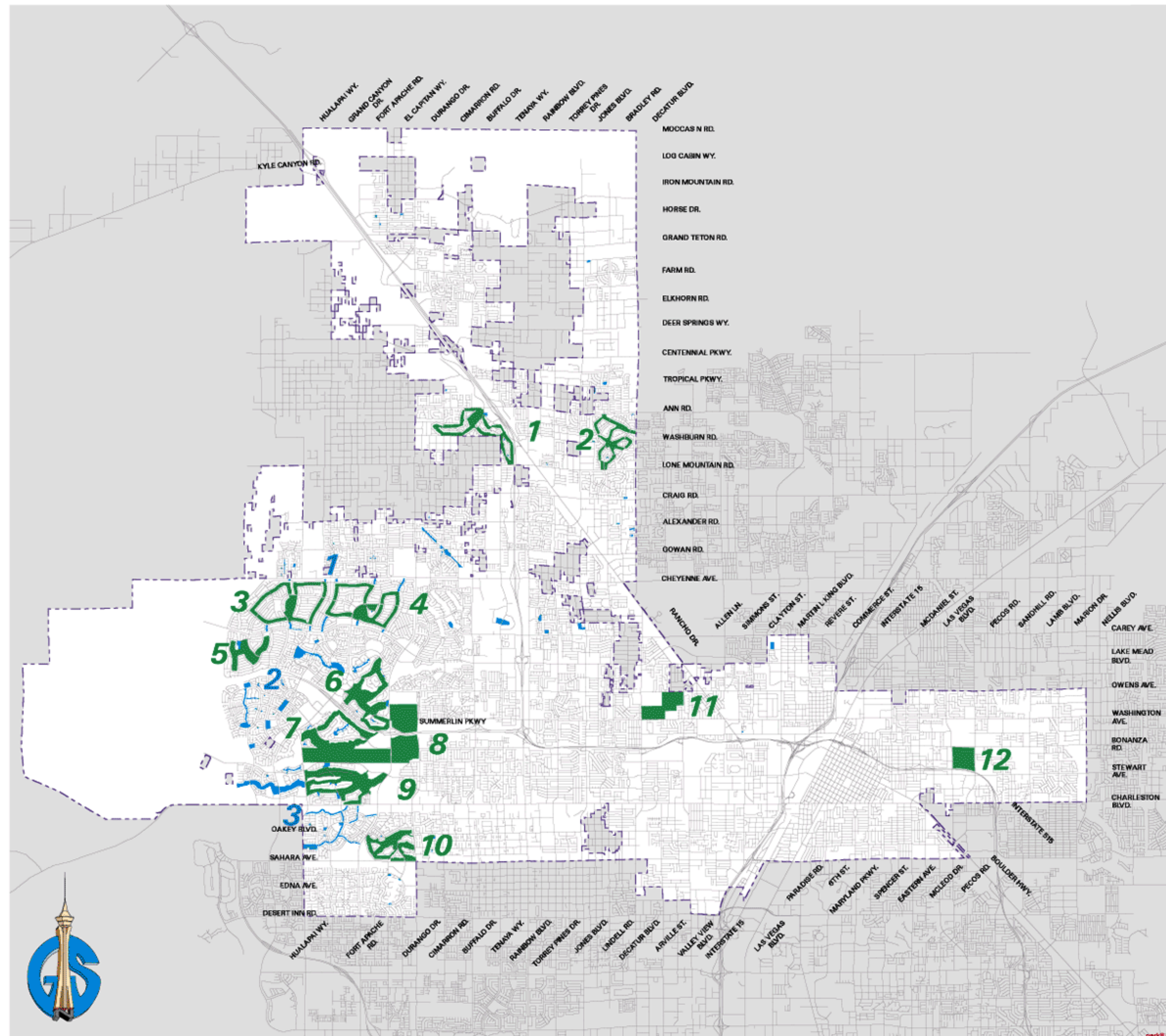
## Parks Element

### Private Parks

- 1 Sun City
- 2 Summerlin
- 3 Peccole Ranch

### Golf Courses

- 1 Painted Desert Golf Course
- 2 Los Prados Country Club
- 3 Highland Falls
- 4 Palm Valley Golf Course
- 5 Eagle Crest Golf Club
- 6 TPC at Summerlin
- 7 TPC at The Canyons
- 8 Angel Park Golf Club
- 9 Bad Lands Golf Club
- 10 Canyon Gate Country Club
- 11 Las Vegas Golf Club
- 12 Desert Pines Golf Club



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**TABLE 2. PRIVATE PARKS IN MASTER  
PLANNED COMMUNITIES**

MASTER PLANNED COMMUNITY	TOTAL ACRES
Summerlin	60
Sun City	15
Peccole Ranch	25
Other	20
Desert Shores	
The Lakes	
<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>120</b>

In contrast, some private recreational opportunities are provided in return for payment of a fee, membership, dues, or other type of exchange. Some examples of such private recreational opportunities in and around the community are listed in Table #3.

**TABLE 3. PRIVATE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR PAYMENT**

FACILITY	LOCATION	ACTIVITY
All American Sports Park	5325 S. Valley View Blvd.	Batting cages, sports skills, mini golf, mini car track.
Childrens' Zoo	1775 N. Rancho Dr.	Petting Zoo
Crystal Palace Skating Center	3901 N. Rancho Dr.	Roller skating.
Dansey's Indoor R/C & Hobbies	741 N. Nellis Blvd.	Remote control track.
Desert Demonstration Gardens	3701 W. Alta Dr.	Water conservation, botanical garden, garden tours and instruction, patio/picnic area.
Gilcrease Bird Sanctuary	8103 Racel St.	Bird sanctuary.
Las Vegas Mini Grand Prix	1401 N. Rainbow Blvd.	Three types of mini car tracks.
Las Vegas Sports Park	Vegas Dr. & Rampart Blvd.	Softball fields, ice and roller rinks, arcade.
Scandia Family Fun	2900 Sirius Ave.	Family fun center.
Southern Nevada Zoological Park	1775 N. Rancho Dr.	Zoo.
Wet 'n Wild	2600 Las Vegas Blvd. S.	Multiple use water theme park.

In addition to the recreational facilities listed in Table #3, there are municipal, public fee, and private membership golf courses available in a wide range of levels within and outside the community. The City owns four 18 hole golf courses and one executive golf course that are operated by private corporations under contract with the City. The Las Vegas Golf Club golf course is subsidized with water provided by the City at no cost to the operator. The three Angel Park Golf Club golf courses and the Desert Pines golf course, are also owned by the City but are provided with water paid for by the operator. These and other private golf courses located within the community are listed in Table #4 and illustrated on Map #8.

**TABLE 4. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE GOLF COURSES**

GOLF COURSES	ADDRESS	TYPE	NUMBER OF HOLES
Angel Park Golf Course	100 Rampart Blvd.	Public	48
Badlands Golf Course	1919 Alta Dr.	Semi-Private	18
Canyon Gate Country Club	2001 Canyon Gate Dr.	Private	18
Desert Pines Golf Club	3401 E. Bonanza Rd.	Public	18
Eagle Crest Golf Club	2203 Thomas Ryan Blvd.	Semi-Private	18
Highland Falls Golf Club	10201 Sun City Blvd.	Semi-Private	18
Las Vegas Golf Club	4349 Vegas Dr.	Public	18
Los Prados Country Club	5150 Los Prados Cir.	Semi-Private	18
Painted Desert Golf Course	555 Painted Mirage Rd.	Semi-Private	18
Palm Valley Golf Course	9201 Del Webb Blvd.	Semi-Private	18
TPC at Summerlin	1700 Village Center Dr.	Private	18

Map #9 shows the locations and service areas of City and private neighborhood parks and school parks that serve as neighborhood parks. By observation of Map #10, it appears that with the presence of private parks and school parks, most of the community is served with neighborhood parks. Only those areas in the extreme north and west and in other scattered areas appear to be devoid of neighborhood parks. However, some discretion must be used in including private parks and school parks in preparing a plan to address anticipated community-wide needs.

School parks are only accessible at times when the schools are not in session, limiting their availability to preschool children and other non-students during the day. Furthermore, many of the school sites are inaccessible to physically challenged individuals. Private parks are intended to provide service to the residential developments within which they are located and, therefore, may not include a full range of active and passive recreational opportunities that are appropriate in most neighborhood parks.






City of Las Vegas

# MAP 9

## Parks Element

### Neighborhood Park Service Areas

-  School Sites (1/2 mile radius)
-  City Park Sites (1/2 mile radius)
-  Private Sites (1/2 mile radius)

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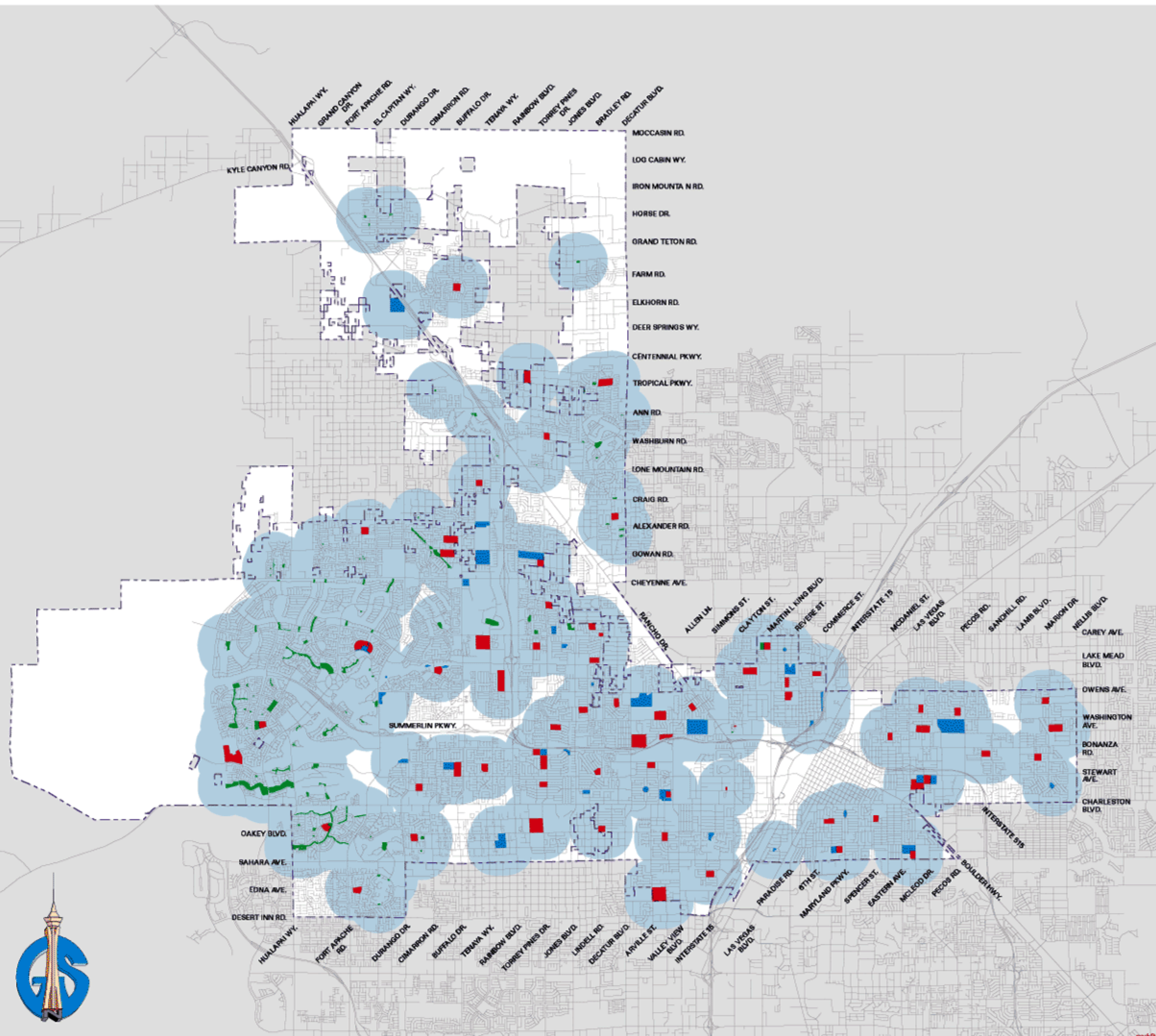
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## MAP 10

### Parks Element

Areas without City of Las Vegas  
School/Neighborhood/Private Parks

-  School/Park Sites  
(1/2 mile radius)
-  City Neighborhood Park Sites  
(1/2 mile radius)
-  Private Park Sites  
(1/2 mile radius)

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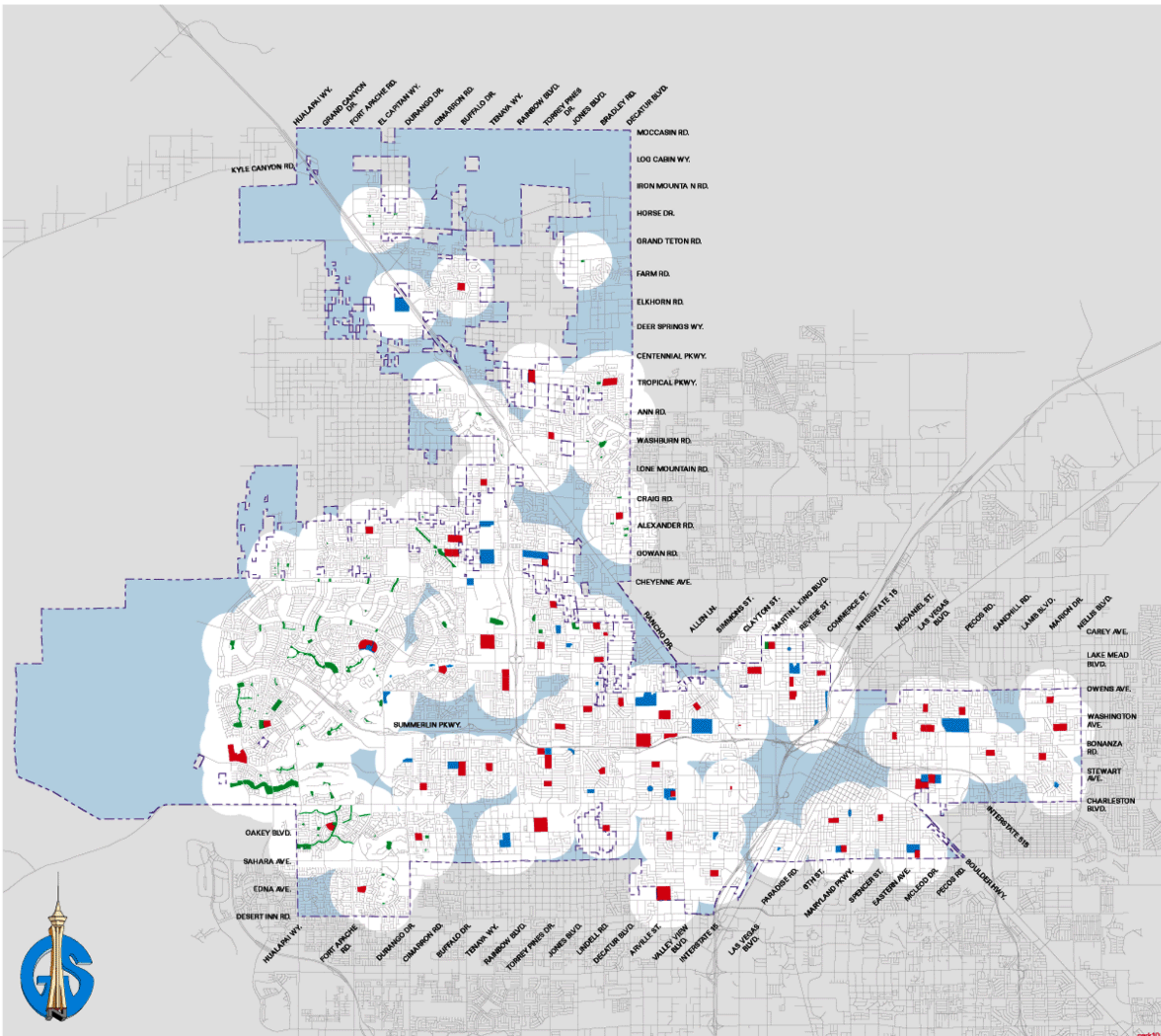
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## NATIONAL, STATE AND REGIONAL PARKS

While local parks serve the local population with a variety of recreational services, many other parks are available to city residents. They include national, state and regional parks and “reserves.” Some of these parks are specialized and serve recreational demands that are not available in community parks. Because of their physical size and unique characteristics such as topography, climate, and water resources, these broad based parks provide opportunities for boating enthusiasts, snow skiers, and mountain climbers.

Within a half hour to three hour drive from Las Vegas, there are several national parks and reserves that offer outdoor recreational opportunities, including climbing, fishing, camping, hiking, and rafting. The Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, Toiyabe National Forest (Mt. Charleston), Spring Mountain National Recreation Area, and Lake Mead National Recreational Area are the closest national recreation areas. Other national parks and reserves include Death Valley National Park, East Mojave National Scenic Area, Grand Canyon National Park, and Zion National Park.

The nearby State parks include the Valley of Fire State Park and the Floyd Lamb State Park. Floyd Lamb State Park, which is located within the city, is a 2,200 acre recreation and historic park. Some of the activities provided in this park include fishing and picnic areas. An existing lease agreement between an equestrian organization and the State of Nevada (State) allows equestrian use of a portion of the park’s eastern property. The park is accessible only by a five dollar entrance fee for vehicles or one dollar per person or equestrian. The perimeter of the developed portion of the park is fenced off by a three-strand wire fence that can be penetrated by adjacent residents, but there is little inclination to trespass. Therefore, its viability in serving as a neighborhood park is limited and not included in this analysis.

The national, state and regional parks and reserves within close proximity of the community, provide abundant recreational opportunities that many other places in the country do not have. In determining the acreage of future parks that are needed, these facilities must be taken into consideration.

Other public parks outside of Las Vegas exist within the Las Vegas Valley but are independently managed by other agencies. The regional and community parks located elsewhere in the Valley serve the city’s population, but neighborhood parks, all of which are located more than one-half mile outside the city limits, provide little value to city residents, except in areas of the community that are presently devoid of any parks.



*Bunker Family Park*

Some parks, e.g. Lone Mountain Park, are established by the government of Clark County and located in unincorporated areas of Clark County. Because these parks may be annexed into the city in the future, they are included in the inventory of future proposed parks.

It should be noted that unincorporated, rural areas of Clark County that abut the city's corporate limits will be annexed into the city only if property owners in these areas are interested in doing so, mainly to be serviced by the infrastructure provided by the City for urban development. For the most part, these areas are occupied by ranch estates whose owners have shown little interest in being annexed into the community at this time. Consequently, the City will not provide parks for these areas until they are annexed. The Parks Element, however, provides a plan of future parks for these areas when and if they become annexed to the City.

## **DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS**

The spatial analysis section addresses whether the existing parks are located and spaced properly when compared to the NRPA standards. This section evaluates the existing parks in comparison to the NRPA standards to determine the appropriate amount of park land overall and of the various parks by classification.

When making comparisons of the amount of park land, it is important to recognize the difference between a park and "open space." A park provides for "passive" and "active" recreational opportunities; open space does not. An area for active recreation is an area set aside for vigorous or energetic use such as child play and active sports, while an area for passive use is designed for non-active sports or leisure activities such as picnicking. Active and passive recreational areas are what are termed "programmable" spaces, i.e. spaces that are programmed for active and leisurely uses.

Open space is an area that exists in its natural state or that may be improved with landscaping, but it is not intended for recreational use. Examples are the perimeter landscaping along a development, wildlife preservation areas, or the median strips in a boulevard. Open space is, however, important for both its visual and environmental attributes.

Although some agencies include open space in their calculation of the amount of park land, it should not be counted, since it is not intended for active and passive recreational use. The Parks Element does not include open space in determining the amount of park land. "Aggregate" parks and open space area is addressed later in this section but only to show the disparity of comparing park land acreage to open space acreage.

## **DEMOGRAPHIC SERVICE LEVELS**

The NRPA standards for demographic service levels for the amount of park land are expressed as ratios of the amount of park land acreage per 1,000 residents for each type of park.



A general, overall figure for a community's park system is recommended at a minimum of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed park land per 1,000 residents.

The City currently owns and operates 486 acres of park land. Given the city's July 1, 1998 population of 448,244, this equates to a service level in acres of parks per 1,000 residents of 1.1. The amount of park land provided by other agencies both in the Valley and in the United States desert southwest are noted in Table #5. Clark County's inventory of parks also has been included. Other cities' parks are reported only for comparison purposes, not to exemplify the amount of park land that should be provided in Las Vegas.

As reported in table #5, Clark County also has 1.1 acres per 1,000 persons. Henderson has 1.7 acres per 1,000 persons, and North Las Vegas has 2.3 acres per 1,000 persons.

**TABLE 5. SERVICE LEVELS BY AGENCY**

CITY / ENTITY	NET ACRES / 1000 POPULATION *
Albuquerque, New Mexico	4.2
Clark County, Nevada	1.1
Henderson, Nevada	1.7
Las Vegas, Nevada	1.1
North Las Vegas, Nevada	2.3
Scottsdale, Arizona	2.5
SNSPA	2.5
Tucson, Arizona	4.3
Yuma, Arizona	5.4

In comparing the service levels of the NRPA to these jurisdiction, there clearly is a divergence between the recommended service level ratio and the park land provided. There are a number of reasons why this is so.

The NRPA's standards are intended to be general and universal and do not reflect the unique characteristics of certain geographical areas of the country. In 1998, the Southern Nevada Strategic Planning Authority (SNSPA) completed a comprehensive regional study. A portion of the study examines the need for parks and demographic standards for parks in the Las Vegas Valley. The SNSPA stated in its report entitled *Planning for our Second Century* (page 50) the following:

"The authority has found that the provision of parks and recreation facilities has not kept pace with the growth of the Las Vegas Valley. Standards used elsewhere in the nation for the development of parks and recreation facilities were reviewed and found to be not applicable for this region, in part due to the abundance of surrounding federal lands designated for parks

and open space. Specific activity areas, such as recreation centers, golf courses, fairgrounds, equestrian arenas and other facilities associated with specialized recreation and leisure pursuits, were not included in the standard. Provision of these facilities would be over and above the standard."

The result was a recommendation by the SNSPA of 2.5 acres of park land per 1,000 residents.

Of particular significance, as observed by the SNSPA, is the abundance of national, state and regional parks within a short driving distance of the Las Vegas Valley. If these sites are included in the analysis, there actually is an abundance of park land available to the Valley residents.

The Greenspun College of Urban Affairs of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the Department of Planning and Development of the City undertook a quality of life survey of 401 residents in the Las Vegas Valley in February 1999. A draft of a report dated July 8, 1999, and entitled *The Quality of Life in Las Vegas*, sets forth the conclusions from the survey. Of 22 indicators used to determine "quality of life," only eight of 22 were considered more important by the respondents than "parks and recreational areas" (page 14). As to the adequacy of parks and recreational areas, 61.7 percent rated them as good to excellent, while 11.5 percent rated them as bad to very bad (page 17).

In similar questions relating to persons' willingness to pay for the quality of life indicators, 67.5 percent of the respondents wished to maintain the present level of funding for parks and recreational areas (page 50). Approximately 22.1 percent of the respondents indicated they were willing to increase taxes for parks and recreational areas (page 51).

The quality of life survey is very revealing as to the satisfaction residents of the Valley are experiencing with the present level of parks and recreational facilities. Parks and recreational facilities appear to be very important to the residents, yet most are satisfied with the present system and few residents in the Valley are willing to contribute additional tax dollars to improve it. However residents who are reluctant to improve the park system with additional tax dollars may still have an interest in improving the system using other funding sources.

Also, the climatic conditions in the Valley in the summer are not conducive to outdoor recreation during the day. Because of the high temperatures during the day, many recreational activities are held at night. This dispersion of activity throughout the day and night results in lower peak demand that can be served by fewer parks. Mild weather conditions, except during hot Summer days, also allow for greater use of parks in the Valley than in most other communities.

For the many reasons indicated above, the SNSPA's recommended service level of 2.5 acres per 1000 residents appears



to be a reasonable goal to pursue for long-range park planning purposes in southern Nevada.

If school parks, private parks accessible to the general public, and open spaces were added to the calculation of park land, then the parks space ratio is significantly greater. This “aggregate” ratio for the city, as shown in Table #6, is 1.91 acres of park land per 1,000 residents in Las Vegas. In other jurisdictions, the aggregate parks space ratio is 1.4 acres per 1,000 persons in Clark County, 4.6 acres in Henderson, and 4.9 acres in North Las Vegas.

A goal of 2.5 acres of overall park land is readily achievable by the provision of regional parks alone, considering those located both within and outside the community. Quite obviously, consideration must be given to service levels for various types of parks. The SNSPA did not address service levels for various types of parks, but Table #7 shows the nationally recommended standards for the amount of park land by specific park type.

Neighborhood parks are an important component of the parks system, because they provide for the day-to-day recreational needs of the neighborhood residents. Federal, state and regional parks and preservation areas are not readily accessible to neighborhood residents nor do the other unique characteristics of the desert southwest or of the Valley diminish the need for neighborhood parks. Therefore, the one to two acres of park land per 1000 neighborhood residents is a standard that should be strictly adhered to. In neighborhoods without the presence of private parks or school parks, a ratio closer to two acres of park land per 1000 residents should be controlling.

As discussed in the previous section, a physical neighborhood bounded by major arterial streets is approximately one mile square. At an average single family dwelling density of approximately 4.5 dwelling units per gross acre and three persons per dwelling unit, a typical neighborhood could be expected to have approximately 8,500 residents. At two acres of park land per 1000 neighborhood residents, approximately 17 acres would be required for a neighborhood park. In the presence of school parks or neighborhood parks, this amount of acreage could be reduced to as low as 8.5 acres or one acre of park land per 1000 neighborhood residents.

In Table #1, the demographic standards also suggest that each neighborhood park be no less than five acres in area to a maximum of approximately 10 acres. Since neighborhood parks are necessary to provide for both passive and active recreational opportunities, a minimum of five acres for a park is crucial. Sports fields for active recreation require approximately four to five acres, so a park of less than five acres has little area left for picnicking and other leisurely or passive recreational activities. If a neighborhood park is less than approximately four to five

**TABLE 6. PARKS COMPARISON**

CITY	CITY OF LAS VEGAS	CITY OF N. LAS VEGAS	CLARK COUNTY	CITY OF HENDERSON	YUMA, AZ	ALBUQUERQUE, NM	TUCSON AZ	SCOTTSDALE AZ
Population – 1998 estimate, 1999 <i>Las Vegas Perspective</i> .	448,244	106,660	474,500	162,652	68,160	419,311	475,782	130,000
Average Measured								
Mini-Parks / Urban Parks	1.2	1.0	12.1	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Neighborhood Parks	197.3	70.1	214.5	212.0	39.5	442.0	399.1	102.0
Community Parks	159.0	13.0	12.0	0.0	90.0	605.0	654.5	227.0
Large Urban Parks	127.5	160.0	304.5	60.0	240.0	694.0	1008.7	0.0
School Parks	290.0	75.0	73.8	35.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Natural Resource	0.0	3.4	0.0	142.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Special Use Park	0.0	161.7	47.0	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Greenways / Beautification	81.2	0.0	0.0	206.0	0.0	234.0	0.0	0.0
Gross Acreage	856.1	484.2	663.8	670.0	371.1	1975.0	2062.3	329.0
Gross Acres per 1000 residents	1.9	4.5	1.4	4.1	5.4	4.7	4.3	2.5
Net Acreage (excluding school parks, natural resources, greenways and other open spaces)								
	484.9	244.1	543.0	272.0	371.1	1741.0	2062.3	329.0
Net Acres per 1000 residents	1.1	2.3	1.1	1.7	5.4	4.2	4.3	2.5

**TABLE 7. DEMOGRAPHIC STANDARDS BY PARK TYPE**

TYPE OF PARK	ACRES / 1000 POPULATION
Mini Park	0.25 to 0.5
Neighborhood Park	1.0 to 2.0
Community Park	5.0 to 8.0
School Park	None Given
Large Urban Park	5.0 to 10.0
Natural Resource	Variable
Trail/Linear Park	Variable
Greenways & Beautification	None Given
Sports Complex	None Given
Special Use	Variable
Private Park / Recreational Facility	None Given
Golf Courses	Variable

acres, there also is a problem of different age groups competing for the same space.

Where the neighborhood population is large enough to support more than 10 acres of park land, consideration should be given to providing more than one neighborhood park for better accessibility to the residents. As discussed in the previous section, the distance of a neighborhood park from the residents should be no more one-half mile. A park located in the center of a neighborhood will be within approximately one-half mile of the residents, but two parks will place the residents within an even closer distance. Two parks are also desirable where the neighborhood configuration is elongated as to place one neighborhood park farther than one-half mile from the residents.

More than one park within a neighborhood, however, places an additional burden on the park maintenance staff. If all the park land is located in one area, maintenance of the park is more efficient, as the maintenance equipment does not then need to be transported to more than one site.

The demographic standards of the NRPA also suggest that a mini- park/urban plaza be no more than approximately one acre in area. For this reason, the space should be identified for passive recreational use or for a specific active recreational use that requires less space. Quite often mini-parks/urban plazas are set aside for playgrounds or “tot lots,” but this practice should be avoided where they are located in close proximity to residences. Active child’s play can be very disturbing to the residents next to a tot lot.

Because of its size, a mini-park/urban park is not a good substitute for a neighborhood park. However, such a park is better than no park, and in developed areas, it may be difficult to find suitable land area to accommodate a full size neighborhood park. For neighborhood parks less than five acres in size, sports fields or other activities that can result in conflicts in a closed space should be avoided.

There presently exist several parks less than five acres in area that were identified as neighborhood parks in the spatial analysis section of this report. Although they provide recreational opportunities for the residents, they approximate the size of mini-parks/urban plazas. They are not large enough to provide for both passive and active recreational uses and, therefore, do not meet the demographic criteria recommended for neighborhood parks. In a neighborhood with only a mini-park/urban plaza, there should be another park with a minimum of five acres or one acre per 1000 residents, whichever is greater.

Mini-parks/urban plazas are highly desirable in commercial areas, particularly for passive recreational uses such as picnicking, resting and socializing. Such parks should be designed to accommodate business employees, business clientele and shoppers, and residents who reside within the commercial areas. Vegetation should be used to enhance its aesthetic qualities. Mini-parks/urban plazas are particularly needed in the downtown area where there presently are few areas for leisurely sitting. Parks in the downtown area are specifically addressed in the downtown plan document entitled "Downtown Las Vegas 2005 Plan." Mini-parks/urban plazas also should be incorporated with new commercial developments as a requirement of the developments.

## EXISTING CONDITIONS

For the purpose of this analysis, the community has been divided into three sectors: southeast, southwest, and northwest. These same sectors have been used for a number of geographic studies dating back to 1988, and much statistical data has been accumulated for these sectors. Although there have been a number of changes in each sector over the past 10 years, new statistical data for each sector is limited and will not be available until the 2000 Decennial Census data is available. Map #11 illustrates the boundaries of each sector and the existing City parks in each sector.

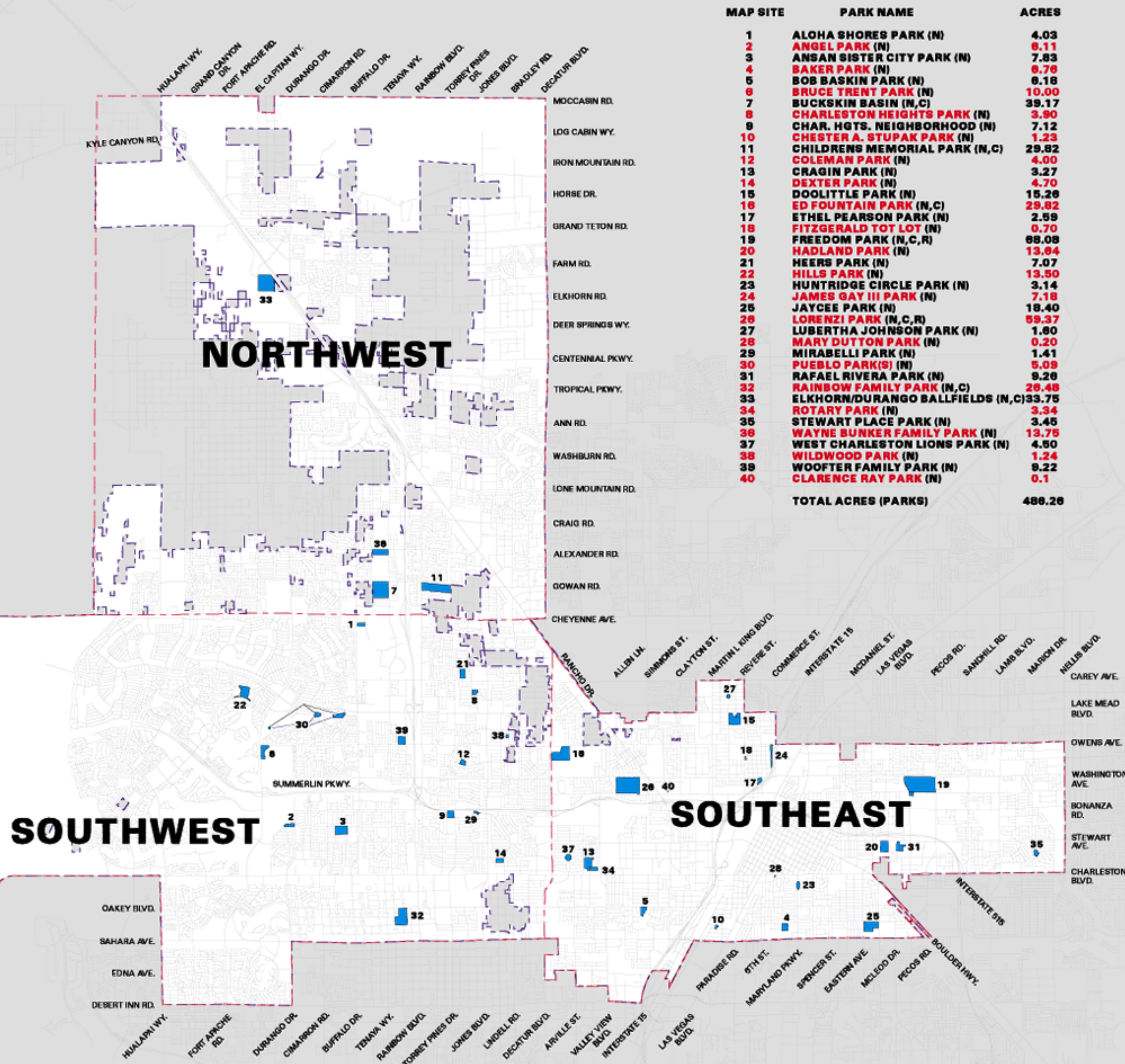
Table #8 shows the service levels of the parks for these three sectors. Analysis of specific demographic data for each of these sectors reveals population characteristics that can be used to determine more specific recreational needs.



# MAP 11

## Parks Element

### City Parks by Sector



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**TABLE 8. SERVICE LEVELS BY SECTOR**

AREA OF CITY	DEMOGRAPHIC SERVICE LEVEL
Entire City	1.1
Southeast Sector	1.5
Southwest Sector	0.9
Northwest Sector	1.5

### SOUTHEAST SECTOR

The southeast sector includes the oldest part of the city and is bounded by the city limits on the south, east, and north and Decatur Boulevard on the west. This area contains the original site of Las Vegas, Clark's Las Vegas Town site, the Meadows and West Las Vegas. The population has remained relatively stable at 172,000 in 1998, increasing by approximately 12,000 residents since 1990. However, some areas near downtown have shown slight decreases in population during this time.

The southeast area has the greatest percentage of seniors (residents 65 years of age and over). It has the lowest percentage of married couple households and the greatest percentage of the other three household types (male head, female head, and non-family). This area also has the lowest median annual household income of the three areas at \$25,346.

The southeast area has the greatest number and acreage of parks among the three areas. This is due in large part to the presence of three regional parks: Lorenzi, Freedom, and Ed Fountain. In all, there are 21 parks consisting of 258 acres, a service level of approximately 1.5 acres of park land per 1,000 residents. Neighborhood parks operated by the City in the eastern portion of the southeast area are limited in number.

### SOUTHWEST SECTOR

The southwest sector has a combination of mature and developing neighborhoods. The area contains the master planned communities of Summerlin, Sun City, and Peccole Ranch. These communities provide recreational space to their respective community residents but do not restrict access to non-residents. The population of the southwest area has increased by more than nine percent per year since 1990, making it the most populous of the three sectors with a 1998 population of more than 211,000 residents. The pace of development is expected to continue on more than 10,000 acres of vacant land primarily intended for low to medium densities of residential development. The majority of this vacant land is in Summerlin.



*Charleston Heights Park*

In 1990, the southwest area had the greatest percentage of residents between 18 and 64 years of age and the fewest under 18 years of age. The mixture may change to an older age composition because of additional residents moving to the age restricted community of Sun City where residents must be 55 years of age or older. The median annual household income was \$37,055 in 1990.

The southwest area has 17 City parks totaling 122 acres. This equates to approximately 0.6 acres per 1,000 population. Adding the area of the Pueblo greenway and trail, increases the service level ratio to 0.96, slightly lower than the overall city ratio of 1.1 acres per 1000 residents. In lieu of City parks there are a number of private parks as shown on Maps #8 and #9.

## **NORTHWEST SECTOR**

The northwest sector is the least populated but the fastest growing area of the city. Since 1990, the northwest area's population has increased at an average annual rate of 21 percent, growing from 17,000 residents to more than 73,000 in 1998. East of the proposed location of Puli Drive, which for the most part also forms the western boundary of the northwest sector, there is a considerable amount of land located in the unincorporated part of Clark County. If this land is eventually annexed into the city, there is a potential for up to approximately 320,000 residents at full build-out in this sector.

In 1990, the northwest sector had the highest percentage of residents under 18 years of age and the fewest over 65 years of age. The area featured the greatest percentage of married couple households at 68 percent. The fewer number of other types of households may be the result of a comparatively fewer number of multifamily dwelling units than in other areas. For the near future, household composition in the northwest is expected to remain similar to what it has been, as approximately 79 percent of the dwelling units constructed during the past five years have been single family. However, the family composition is expected to change over time as may be reflected in new Decennial Census data.

The northwest area currently has four parks totaling 108 acres for a resulting 1.47 park acres per 1,000 residents.

## **FUTURE PARK NEEDS AT BUILD-OUT**

The City's population at full build-out is projected to be 815,000. At the build-out population, the community will need approximately 2,040 acres of park space to achieve the desired 2.5 acres per 1,000 residents. Since there are presently 486 acres of park land, an additional 1,550 acres of park land will be needed.

## SOUTHEAST SECTOR

In the southeast sector, the build-out population is estimated to be approximately 175,000 residents. Accordingly, the southeast area will need approximately 440 acres of park land at full build-out and 700 acres of aggregate park land and open space. With an existing acreage of 258 acres of park land, an additional 180 acres of park land is needed.

## SOUTHWEST AND NORTHWEST SECTORS

Both of these sectors are projected to have the same approximate population at full build-out, i.e., 320,000 residents. Approximately 800 acres of park land should be provided in each area. There presently exist 122 acres in the southwest sector and 108 acres in the northwest sector. Therefore, an additional 678 acres of recreational area will be needed in the southwest sector and 692 acres of recreational area will be needed in the northwest sector.

## PLANNED PARKS

There are 29 new parks planned and existing parks proposed for expansion within the community. Map #12 shows the locations of these planned parks. Establishment of these parks is to be completed or initiated within the next four years. The planned parks include seven new neighborhood parks, five community parks, and five regional parks. Map #13 shows the locations of the parks and their respective service areas. The smallest park is to be located at the intersection of Gowan Road and Durango Drive and the largest is to be near the intersection of Kyle Canyon Road and U.S. 95. Improvements to existing parks include recreation centers, outdoor passive recreational uses, and active recreational activities ranging from playgrounds to soccer fields. The new facilities include the Ann-Cimarron Track Break Building, which is part of the Ann-Cimarron Park, and the Veterans Memorial Leisure Service Center, which is currently under construction and will operate in association with the Summerlin Sports Park.

In addition, one Summerlin Master Planned Community park is planned as a sports park. This park is accessible to the general public and will provide recreational opportunities for the community.

The composite inventory of the present and planned parks is displayed on Map #14. This map shows the service areas and resulting effect these planned parks will have on the existing parks system. The map reveals that the northwest sector will be serviced by regional parks, community parks and neighborhood parks. The two planned community parks in the southwest sector will contribute in meeting recreational needs for that area of the community. There is considerable resistance, however, to the establishment of the Pioneer/O'Bannon Park; its development may be abandoned.



*Charleston Heights  
Neighborhood  
Preservation Park*

The total area of the planned parks equates to approximately 2,070 acres. If the 486 acres of existing park land is included, there is a total of 2,560 acres of existing and proposed park land, resulting in 3.13 acres of park land per 1000 residents at full build-out. It would appear that with these additional acres of park land, the community will meet its goal of 2.5 acres of park land per 1000 residents at full build-out. Nonetheless, excluding the “suggested” parks illustrated on Map #14, there still is a need for additional neighborhood parks in some areas of the community, suggesting that redistribution of the planned park sites is needed. As is discussed in Appendix C, “transfers of reversionary interest” may be a way of redistributing the planned sites.

Map #15 includes the present and planned public and private parks and school parks. The areas devoid of any service to recreational opportunities are shaded. Those areas in need of parks are examined with an emphasis placed on providing additional park sites where there are no opportunities existing or proposed.

Clark County also has plans for the development of new parks. Lone Mountain Park was recently completed and will function as a community park as will a park proposed near the intersection of Lone Mountain Road and Durango Drive. These parks will help meet the demand for recreation area in the northwest sector of the community. Cooperative efforts between the City and County will be required as the city limits expand to incorporate more of the northwest area. Generally, the City annexes property as development occurs, so over time, it is expected that those planned and existing County parks will be located in the city.

## FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS

The above spatial analysis and demographic analysis sections establish the guidelines for determining the general location, spatial distribution, amount of park land, and sizes of parks needed at full build-out. A functional analysis identifies recreational needs by activity type using national standards as a guide. Accordingly, the functional analysis will determine the level of service that is needed, whether existing facilities are adequate to serve the current population, and the level of service needed for each function for the community at full build-out.

Several assumptions must be established at the outset, because recreational demands and interests change over time. Racket ball courts, for example, were quite popular in the 1980s and early 1990s; however, that popularity has diminished. The City is building new leisure service centers which were initially designed with racket ball courts. Because the demand for racket ball courts has diminished, the court areas have been redesigned for large work-out areas, aerobic rooms, and class rooms.

# MAP 12

## Parks Element Planned City Parks with Recreational Facilities/ Construction Plans

- 1 Fort Apache/Log Cabin Park (N)
- 2 Jones/Iron Mountain Park (N,C,R)
- 3 Grand Canyon/Bradley Park (N,C)
- 4 Fort Apache/Elkhorn Park (N)
- 5 Elkhorn/Durango Ballfields (N,C)
- 6 Deer Springs Park (N,C)
- 7 Deer Springs/Thom Park (N,C)
- 8 Regional Sports Park (N,C)
- 9 Ann/Cimmaron Park (N)
- 10 Cheyenne/Jensen Park (N,C)
- 11 Metro Park (N)
- 12 Alexander/Diamond Ridge Park (N)
- 13 Cheyenne/Durango Park (N,C,R)
- 14 Northwest Family Park (N)
- 15 Bunker Park (Expansion) (N)
- 16 Gowan South Dentention Basin Park (N,C)
- 17 Cheyenne Dentention Basin (N,C)
- 18 Northwest Soccer Park (N,C)
- 19 Summerlin Sports Park (N)
- 20 Pioneer/Silver Ridge Park (N)
- 21 AnSan Sister City Park (N)
- 22 Buffalo/Oakey Park (N,C)
- 23 Pioneer/O'Bannon Park (N)
- 24 Oakey/Redwood Park (N,C)
- 25 Heritage Park (N)
- 26 Dog Fanciers Park (N)
- 27 Bonanza/Honolulu Park (N)

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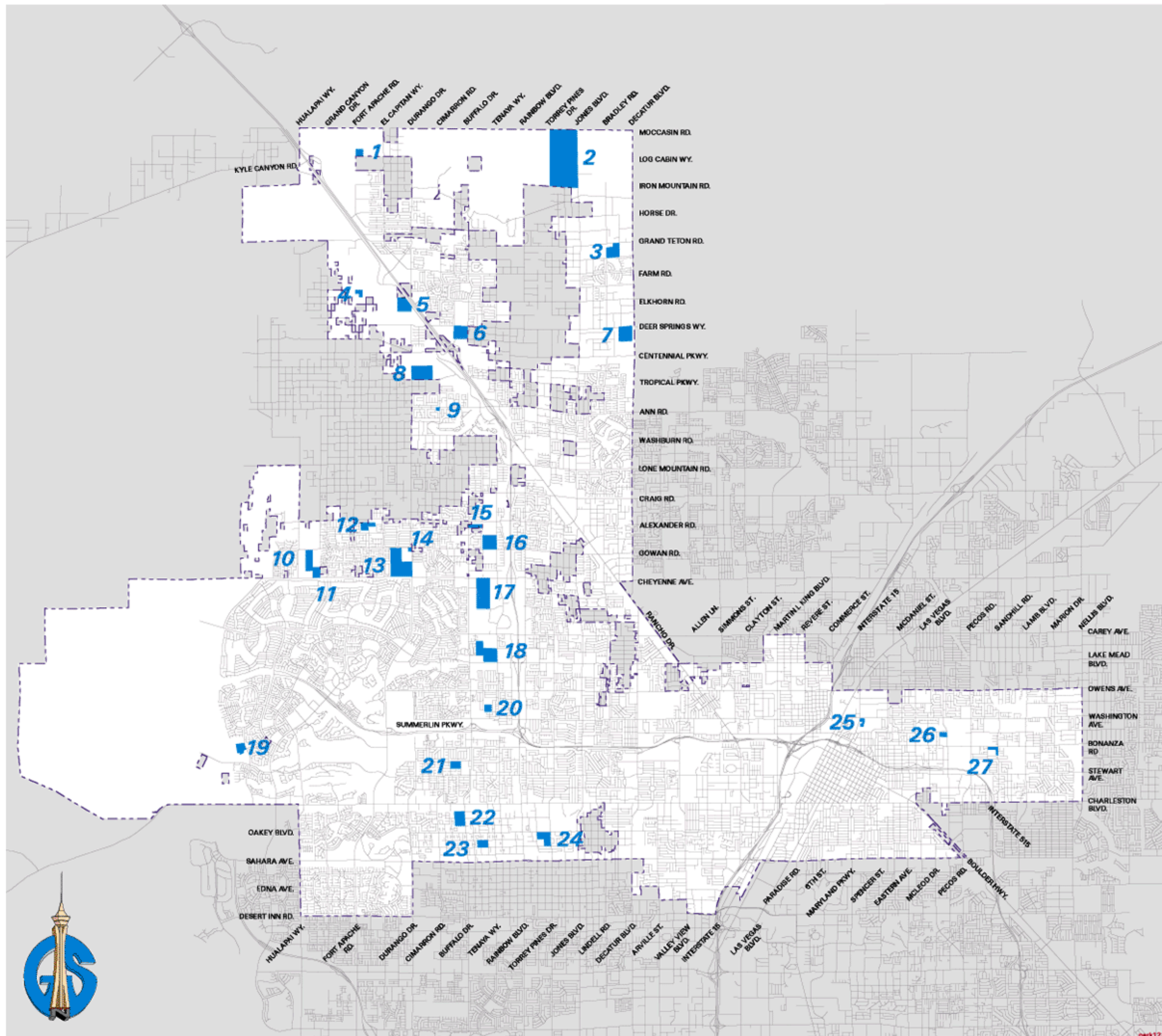


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# MAP 13

## Parks Element

### Planned City Parks Service Areas

- 1 Fort Apache/Log Cabin Park (N)
- 2 Jones/Iron Mountain Park (N,C,R)
- 3 Grand Canyon/Bradley Park (N,C)
- 4 Fort Apache/Elkhorn Park (N)
- 5 Elkhorn/Durango Ballfields (N,C)
- 6 Deer Springs Park (N,C)
- 7 Deer Springs/Thom Park (N,C)
- 8 Regional Sports Park (N,C)
- 9 Ann/Cimmaron Park (N)
- 10 Cheyenne/Jensen Park (N,C)
- 11 Metro Park (N)
- 12 Alexander/Diamond Ridge Park (N)
- 13 Cheyenne/Durango Park (N,C,R)
- 14 Northwest Family Park (N)
- 15 Bunker Park (Expansion) (N)
- 16 Gowan South Dentention Basin Park (N,C)
- 17 Cheyenne Dentention Basin (N,C)
- 18 Northwest Soccer Park (N,C)
- 19 Summerlin Sports Park (N)
- 20 Pioneer/Silver Ridge Park (N)
- 21 AnSan Sister City Park (N)
- 22 Buffalo/Oakey Park (N,C)
- 23 Pioneer/O'Bannon Park (N)
- 24 Oakey/Redwood Park (N,C)
- 25 Heritage Park (N)
- 26 Dog Fanciers Park (N)
- 27 Bonanza/Honolulu Park (N)

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### Service Areas

- Regional
- Community
- Neighborhood



## MAP 14 Council Wards within the Parks Element

Existing/Planned/Suggested  
City Parks with Service Areas

- 1 Fort Apache/Log Cabin Park (N)
- 2 Jones/Iron Mountain Park (N,C,R)
- 3 Grand Canyon/Bradley Park (N,C)
- 4 Fort Apache/Elkhorn Park (N)
- 5 Elkhorn/Durango Ballfields (N,C)
- 6 Deer Springs Park (N,C)
- 7 Deer Springs/Thom Park (N,C)
- 8 Regional Sports Park (N,C)
- 9 Ann/Cimmaron Park (N)
- 10 Cheyenne/Jensen Park (N,C)
- 11 Metro Park (N)
- 12 Alexander/Diamond Ridge Park (N)
- 13 Cheyenne/Durango Park (N,C,R)
- 14 Northwest Family Park (N)
- 15 Bunker Park (Expansion) (N)
- 16 Gowan South Dentention Basin Park (N,C)
- 17 Cheyenne Dentention Basin (N,C)
- 18 Northwest Soccer Park (N,C)
- 19 Summerlin Sports Park (N)
- 20 Pioneer/Silver Ridge Park (N)
- 21 AnSan Sister City Park (N)
- 22 Buffalo/Oakey Park (N,C)
- 23 Pioneer/O'Bannon Park (N)
- 24 Oakey/Redwood Park (N,C)
- 25 Heritage Park (N)
- 26 Dog Fanciers Park (N)
- 27 Bonanza/Honolulu Park (N)

MAP SITE	PARK NAME	ACRES
1	ALOHA SHORES PARK (N)	4.03
2	ANGEL PARK (N)	6.11
3	ANSAN SISTER CITY PARK (N)	7.83
4	BAKER PARK (N)	6.76
5	BOB BASKIN PARK (N)	6.18
6	BRUCE TRENT PARK (N)	10.00
7	BUCKSKIN BASIN (N,C)	39.17
8	CHARLESTON HEIGHTS PARK (N)	3.90
9	CHAR. HGTS. NEIGHBORHOOD (N)	7.12
10	CHESTER A. STUPAK PARK (N)	1.23
11	CHILDRENS MEMORIAL PARK (N,C)	29.82
12	COLEMAN PARK (N)	4.00
13	CRAGIN PARK (N)	3.27
14	DEXTER PARK (N)	4.70
15	DOOLITTLE PARK (N)	15.26
16	ED FOUNTAIN PARK (N,C)	29.82
17	ETHEL PEARSON PARK (N)	2.59
18	FITZGERALD TOT LOT (N)	0.70
19	FREEDOM PARK (N,C,R)	68.08
20	HADLAND PARK (N)	13.64
21	HEERS PARK (N)	7.07
22	HILLS PARK (N)	13.50
23	HUNTRIDGE CIRCLE PARK (N)	3.14
24	JAMES GAY III PARK (N)	7.18
25	JAYCEE PARK (N)	18.40
26	LORENZI PARK (N,C,R)	59.37
27	LUBERTHA JOHNSON PARK (N)	1.60
28	MARY DUTTON PARK (N)	0.20
29	MIRABELLI PARK (N)	1.41
30	PUEBLO PARK(S) (N)	5.09
31	RAFAEL RIVERA PARK (N)	9.26
32	RAINBOW FAMILY PARK (N,C)	26.48
33	ELKHORN/DURANGO BALLFIELDS (N,C)	33.75
34	ROTARY PARK (N)	3.34
35	STEWART PLACE PARK (N)	3.45
36	WAYNE BUNKER FAMILY PARK (N)	13.75
37	WEST CHARLESTON LIONS PARK (N)	4.50
38	WILDWOOD PARK (N)	1.24
39	WOOFER FAMILY PARK (N)	9.22
40	CLARENCE RAY PARK (N)	0.1
TOTAL ACRES (PARKS)		486.26

Existing City Parks  
Planned City Parks  
Suggested Parks

N - Neighborhood Park  
C - Community Park  
R - Regional Park

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Development  
Services Center

# MAP 15

## Parks Element

Areas without Neighborhood Parks  
including Commercial/Industrial area

Future Park Service Areas



Residential Areas without Parks



Commercial/Industrial Areas  
without Parks



Parks



Schools



Public Access  
Private Parks



Planned  
Parks



Planned  
Schools

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DEVELOPMENT  
CITY OF LAS VEGAS  
Development  
Services Center



Another example of the changing demand for facilities is the cyclic demographic shift that is common in residential neighborhoods. New developments characteristically consist of families with young children. But as the developments mature, families age until there are a greater number of “empty nesters.” As younger families move into the neighborhood, the cycle repeats itself. These changes reflect the need to provide cost effective convertible space in designing recreational facilities.

Predicting future facility needs is complicated and subject to periodic review. Specific facility needs should be assessed annually at the time of preparing the capital budget in comparison with the standards established in this plan. A thorough inventory of the existing programs, which are sponsored in conjunction with the recreational facilities, is included in Appendix B.

The NRPA has established national standards for recreational facilities. Table #9 displays the national standards for these facilities. The standards have been adjusted slightly to reflect local climatic conditions. For example, here there are more evening activities which require more lighted facilities than in other parts of the country.

Table #10 shows specific comparisons between the city’s existing functional levels of service and the adjusted national standards. These comparisons indicate that the city is in need of several types and an increased number of certain recreational facilities. The table shows there is a substantial surplus in soccer fields; however, many of those are located in multi-use fields in conjunction with other sports activities such as football and baseball. It is desirable to have the recommended number of fields devoted only to soccer to avoid conflicts in scheduling or in uneven wear of the playing field. Four of the football fields are designated for football and 16 are located in conjunction with multi-use fields. Unlike soccer, football is not played all year. Therefore, multi-use fields for football is an efficient way of providing for football.

Major deficiencies exist in some activities, including basketball, tennis, volleyball, and track. Not included in the table, however, are the number of basketball, tennis, and volleyball facilities located in schools that are not open and readily accessible to the public. Consequently, in determining facility needs for certain activities that will be provided by the City at specific locations, the proximity and accessibility of school and private facilities should be taken into consideration.

Because of the hot climate, generally more night time lighted facilities are needed than non-lighted facilities. It also appears that the number of golf courses provided is adequate. However, this may be misleading as the courses are heavily used by visitors thereby limiting play by local residents.



*Chester Stupak Park*

**TABLE 9. ADJUSTED NATIONAL STANDARDS**

ACTIVITY / FACILITY	RECOMMENDED SPACE REQUIREMENTS	RECOMMENDED SIZE & DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	NUMBER OF UNITS PER POPULATIONS	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
Basketball						
1. Youth	2,400 - 3,036 sq. ft.	46 ft. to 50 ft. X 84 ft.	Long axis north-south	1 per 5,000	1/4 to 1/2 mile	Usually in school, recreation center, neighborhood, or community park.
2. High School	5,040 - 7,280 sq. ft.	50 ft. X 94 ft.				
3. Collegiate	5,600 - 7,980 sq. ft.	50 ft. X 94 ft.; 5 ft. of unobstructed space on all sides.				
Tennis	Min. of 7,200 sq. ft. for single court; 2 acres for complex.	36 ft. X 78 ft.; 12 ft. clearance on sides and 21 ft. clearance on ends.	Long axis north-south	1 court per 2,000	1/4 to 1/2 mile	Best in groups of 2-4 in neighborhood and community parks and middle and high schools.
Volleyball	Min. of 4,000 sq. ft.	30 ft. X 60 ft.; min. 6 ft. clearance on all sides.	Long axis north-south	1 court per 5,000	1/2 to 1 mile	Usually in school, recreation center, neighborhood, or community parks.
Baseball & Softball						
1. Official	3.0 - 3.85 acres min.	90 ft. baselines; 60.5 ft. pitching distance; 320 ft. foul lines; 400 ft. center field.	Line from home plate through pitcher's mound runs east-north-east.	1 non-lighted field per 14,500; 1 lighted field per 11,500.	1/4 to 1/2 mile	Part of neighborhood complex; lighted fields part of community complex.
2. Little League	1.2 acres min.	60 ft. baselines; 46 ft. pitching distance; 200 ft. foul lines; 200-250 ft. center field.				

**TABLE 9. ADJUSTED NATIONAL STANDARDS, CONT'D**

ACTIVITY / FACILITY	RECOMMENDED SPACE REQUIREMENTS	RECOMMENDED SIZE & DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	NUMBER OF UNITS PER POPULATIONS	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
Football	1.5 acres min.	160 ft. X 360 ft.; min. 6 ft. clearance on all sides north to south.	Fall season - long axis northwest to southwest; for longer periods, north to south.	1 per 20,000	15 - 30 minutes travel time. adjacent to high school.	Usually part of baseball, football, soccer complex in community park, or school.
Soccer	1.7 - 2.1 acres	195 - 225 ft. X 330 - 360 ft; min. 10 ft. clearance on all sides.	Fall season - long axis northwest to southwest; for longer periods, north to south.	1 per 10,000	1 - 2 miles	Number of units depends upon popularity of sport; youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to schools or neighborhood parks.
Golf – driving range may be private	13.5 acres for min. of 25 tees. ea. additional tee.	900 ft. X 690 ft.; + 12 ft. of width per northeast with	Long axis southwest- golfer driving northeast.	1 per 60,000	30 minutes travel time. separate unit may	Part of golf course complex; as be private.
Track – 1 / 4 mi. running/jogging	4.3 acres	600.02 ft X 276 ft.; 32 ft. width for 8 to 4 lanes.	Long axis north to south to southwest- southeast with finish line at northerly end.	1 per 20,000	15 - 30 minutes travel time.	Usually part of high school or in community park complex with football, soccer, etc.
Golf  9 hole  18 hole par 3	  Min. 50 acres  50 - 60 acres	  Avg. length 2250 yds.  Avg. length 600 - 2700 yds.	  Majority of holes on north-south axis.	  1 per 25,000	  1/2 to 1 hour travel time.	  Course may be in a community or regional park, but not over 20 miles. Up to 350 persons per day.

**TABLE 9. ADJUSTED NATIONAL STANDARDS, CONT'D**

ACTIVITY / FACILITY	RECOMMENDED SPACE REQUIREMENTS	RECOMMENDED SIZE & DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	NUMBER OF UNITS PER POPULATIONS	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
18 hole standard	Min. 110 acres	Avg. length 6500 yds.		1 per 50,000		Up to 500 - 550 per day.
Swimming Pools	Varies: 1 / 2 - 2 acre site.	Min. 27 sq. ft. water surface per swimmer; 2:1 deck area to water area; teaching pools require min. 25 yds. X 45 yds. with even depth of 3 - 4 ft.; competitive activity pools require min. 25 meters X 16 meters.	None; although lifeguard stations should be sited away from afternoon sun.	1 per 20,000	15 - 30 minutes travel time	Should be planned for teaching, competitive, and recreational purposes with enough depth (3.4 meters) for 1 to 3 meter diving boards; located w/ community park or school.

**TABLE 10. STANDARDS COMPARISON**

ACTIVITY / FACILITY NATIONAL STANDARDS	ADJUSTED NATIONAL STANDARDS:	CURRENT LOCAL UNIT NEED BASED ON NAT'L STDS POP. = 448,224	CITY OF LAS VEGAS UNITS AVAILABLE	DEFICIT OR SURPLUS BASED ON NAT'L STDS POP. = 448,224	TOTAL NEED AT BUILD OUT: POP. = 815,000
Basketball* 1. Youth 2. High School 3. Collegiate	1 per 5000	89	13	-76	163
Tennis*	1 court per 2000	222	29	-193	407
Volleyball* A17	1 court per 5000	89	8	-81	163
Baseball  1. Official 2. Little League	1 non-lighted field per 14,500; and 1 lighted field per 11,500.	31 non-lighted fields and 39 lighted fields.	30 non-lighted fields and 38 lighted fields.	Total deficit of 2 fields. Specific unit deficit of 1 non-lighted field and 1 lighted field.	56 non-lighted fields and 71 lighted fields.
Softball	None Given.	Since none give, this unit category is combined with the above baseball category.			
Football	1 per 20,000	22	20	-2	41
Soccer	1 per 10,000	44	67	23	82
Golf-driving range, public only including Desert Pines, Angel Park, and Municipal Golf Course; private facilities are available within the City although not included in this analysis.*	1 per 60,000	7	3	-6	14
Track – 1 / 4 mile standard track, running/jogging, only available at high schools.	1 per 20,000	22	8	-14	41
Golf 1. Par 3 (18-hole) 2. 9-hole standard 3. 18-hole standard	----- 1 / 25,000 1 / 50,000	17 9	18 11	+1 +2	33 16
Swimming pools	1 per 20,000 (Pools should accommodate 3 to 5% of total population at a time.	22	8	-14	41

\* Figures do not account for school parks and privately built access parks.

# PARKS PLAN

## FINDINGS

The Parks Comparison chapter of this plan document addresses the existing conditions of the parks system and identifies the need for parks and recreational facilities throughout the community. New parks and recreational facilities identified will enhance the existing parks system, provide active and passive recreational opportunities in built up areas that need these opportunities, and provide adequate services for future development.

The spatial analysis section establishes service areas for various park classifications. Each new type of park should be located where there is a pressing need for recreational services according to the various classifications. The areas of the community that need additional recreational services include the far northwest, West Cheyenne Avenue, downtown Las Vegas, and the southeast.

The demographic analysis section reveals that the community has less park acreage per 1,000 residents than other communities of comparable climate and size. The analysis of population combined with the planned inventory of recreational opportunities demonstrate that the SNSPA goal of 2.5 acres per 1,000 residents for park land is attainable.

The functional analysis demonstrates the need for certain types of recreational facilities based upon national standards. The national standards, however, need to be adjusted to reflect local climatic conditions. There is a current need for additional tennis courts, volleyball courts, golf-driving ranges, jogging tracks, and swimming pools. Emphasis should be placed on the establishment of new facilities that meet these needs.

There is a current surplus of golf courses based on the national average of the number of golf courses needed for the existing population. However, because of a large usage of the public's golf courses by visitors, there is actually a deficiency in golf courses. The analysis also shows a current need for one additional lighted baseball/softball field and one additional non-lighted field. Additional facilities will be needed in the long-run as the city's population increases.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The standards necessary for determining the location, spatial distribution, overall amount, size and function of parks and recreational facilities are addressed in the needs analysis chapter of the Parks Element. Those standards were compared to the existing parks system and used to determine future needs. For planning purposes to the year 2020, the following recommendations are outlined:

- Establish a park system based upon the park classifications, size, and service area requirements as shown in Table #1.



- Develop total park acreage at the ratio of 2.5 acres/1,000 residents.
- Emphasize low maintenance and water conservation incorporating Xeriscapes, drought tolerant vegetation, and “target” turf.
- Provide active recreational facilities based on the adjusted national standards shown in Table #11.
- Locate and orient lighting with sensitivity to surrounding development, recognizing that lighted facilities may be a nuisance to residential development in close proximity.
- Locate parks and specific functions throughout the community that reflect the needs and interests of the areas served.
- Locate neighborhood parks with one-half mile service areas that are not obstructed by physical barriers to pedestrian traffic such as arterial streets.
- Locate regional and community parks and facilities taking into account a range of logistical considerations such as proximity to highway access and potential for impact of community-level services on surrounding areas.



**TABLE 11. STANDARDS FOR  
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

ACTIVITY	STANDARD
Basketball	1 court per 5,000 persons
Tennis	1 court per 2,000 persons
Volleyball	1 court per 5,000 persons
Baseball/Softball	1 non-lighted field per 14,500 persons; and 1 lighted field per 11,500 persons.
Football	1 per 20,000 persons
Soccer	1 per 10,000 persons
Swimming pools	1 per 20,000 persons



*Childrens Memorial Park*

## **SUGGESTED PARK LOCATIONS**

Map #14 shows the location of existing parks and proposed City neighborhood, community and regional parks and recreational facilities already identified and approved for development. Map #14 also shows the location of suggested neighborhood parks in addition to those proposed.

Suggested neighborhood park locations are identified taking into consideration the optimum locations identified by the location criteria of this report, the limited use of school parks and private parks, and the proposed locations of parks as identified by the City and County in previous master plans. The proposed location of planned parks should be compared with the optimum suggested location of neighborhood parks in preparation of specific capital projects identified for the capital improvements program. It should be noted that the suggested locations for future neighborhood parks are located so service areas are not obstructed by existing and proposed arterial streets. These suggested locations are not intended to be site specific.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

### **PARKS SYSTEM ESTABLISHMENT**

The responsibilities for the establishment of new parks and recreational facilities, including planning; site acquisition; and development (i.e. design, engineering, and construction) are distributed amongst several City departments. The same is true with park operations, including maintenance and programming. Consequently, collaboration amongst staffs in these departments is essential to the successful provision of recreational services to the community. The Planning and Development Department prepares plans for future park needs. The Real Estate and Asset Management Division of the Office of Business Development provides direction and assistance with site acquisition. The Architectural Services Division and Parks/Open Space Division of the Public Works Department provide design, engineering, and contract oversight services for developing parks. The Parks/Open Space Division of the Public Works Department also maintains the parks. The Leisure Services Department provides programming and staffing for various park programs and functions.

The overall cost for establishing and operating the parks system includes the cost of land acquisition, the cost of designing and constructing new parks and recreational facilities, and the cost for their operation. Aside from the acquisition and development costs of providing parks and recreational facilities, the operations cost has the greatest impact on the annual budget. For this reason, it is important to recognize the operations cost for programs and maintenance of the parks system when estimating the costs associated with the capital improvements program and in turn preparing the capital budget.



## ANTICIPATED ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT COSTS

Based upon the established goal of 2.5 acres per 1,000 residents at full build-out, expected to be reached by 2020, the City will need to add to the present parks system a total of 1550 acres of park land or approximately 78 acres of park land per year. To support the acquisition and development of this much park land, the costs for park land acquisition and development have been determined to derive an overall approximate cost.

The cost for acquiring park land can vary significantly, as the fair market value of land is determined by a number of variables, including services extended to the land, whether the land is subdivided into smaller parcels, its relative proximity to existing development, whether there are certain amenities that tend to inflate its value, and so on. For discussion purposes, the Right-of-Way Division of the Public Works Department indicates that a land value of \$70,000 per acre is not unrealistic for land in newly developing areas. This being the case, \$5.4 million will be needed per year for land acquisition costs. Quite obviously, if the City is able to use BLM land for park purposes, this figure will be reduced substantially.

The Public Works Department estimates, based on the development of recent parks, that the average cost of developing a park equates to approximately \$250,000 per acre. The resulting annual commitment for park land development (design and construction) equates to approximately \$19.4 million. Interim cost estimates have been prepared as part of this plan for the various activities necessary for sustaining the park system.

## ANTICIPATED OPERATION COSTS

Operation costs include the costs necessary to maintain the park system and for programmed activities and events. Maintenance costs include those costs necessary for the equipment and personnel to keep parks and facilities in good condition, while programming costs are those costs incurred in sponsoring activities and events.

Specific figures for determining maintenance and programming costs are not available, but for budgeting purposes, a program is underway to derive more accurate cost figures. Prior to the dissolution of the Parks and Leisure Services Department in 1998, there was less need to determine costs for each type of activity, as all costs and budgeted funds for operations were centered in one department. With the establishment of the Leisure Services Department and the Parks/Open Spaces Division of the Public Works Department, the activities were divided, requiring a separate accounting of costs for the activities handled by each department or division.

To date, the Information Technologies Department is developing the software that will allow the Leisure Services Department and the Parks/Open Spaces Division to tabulate expenses by each activity. This program will be available for determining exact costs



*Coleman Park*

by activity for fiscal year 2001. In the interim, expenses by activity are estimated using methods used in the past for budgeting purposes and by using historical cost data that is available from other agencies in the Las Vegas Valley.

## TYPICAL PARK MAINTENANCE COSTS

Maintenance of parks and recreational facilities is an important aspect of every parks system. Without proper maintenance it is difficult to keep the parks system at a level that does not regress to a dilapidated state. When this occurs, it is generally more difficult and more costly to make the necessary improvements to bring the parks system back to the appropriate level. Yet, when funds are scarce, it often is maintenance of the parks system that assumes a lower priority than other aspects of the system.

Generally, with each additional 15 acres of fully developed park land, the fiscal impact will be as follows:

Cost Item	Cost
Salaries and benefits	\$55,000
Administrative and overhead costs	\$12,000
Materials, supplies, and services	<u>\$7,500</u>
Total	\$75,000

This equates to an annual maintenance cost of \$5,000 per acre @ \$75,000/15 acres. This cost is found to be generally consistent with costs determined by other jurisdictions in the Las Vegas Valley as shown in Table #12. The City of Mesa Arizona is also included in this table for comparison purposes.

**TABLE 12. COST PER ACRE BY AGENCY**

AGENCY	COST PER ACRE (\$)
Boulder City	5,000
Henderson	5,000
North Las Vegas	10,067
UNLV	4,000
Mesa, Arizona	4,800

Officials of the City of North Las Vegas have determined their annual maintenance costs on one full time equivalent employee needed for each 10 acres of park land. However, each person has additional tasks for non-park programs such as maintaining a sports field, golf course or swimming pool. Based upon the costs for park maintenance determined by most other agencies, \$5,000 per acre is a suitable number for estimating the costs for parks maintenance.

In addition to the 486 acres of park land that the City maintains, the City also maintains 27 school parks as well as several open space areas. The Pueblo Greenway, for example, consists of a large expanse of open space within which is located three small parks. Including parks, school parks and greenways, the City maintains are 856 total acres of land. At \$5,000 per acre, \$4.28 million should be set aside for maintenance of the existing parks and open space areas in the annual operating budget separate from the capital budget. In addition, to meet the future anticipated need for parks, an average of 78 acres of park land should be developed per year to the year 2020. For every 78 acres developed, an additional \$390,000 of funds should be set aside for maintenance.

To reduce maintenance costs, the City needs to continually search for cost effective ways to design and develop parks. Regular turf is less expensive to install than hardscapes and drought tolerant xeriscapes and desert landscaping, but it is much more expensive to maintain. Since park users prefer turf to other landscapes, parks should be designed and developed with "target" turf, i.e. turf should be located only in those areas of the parks where it is essential. Turf generally needs to be provided in areas of active recreational use such as sports fields, but passive recreational areas should be landscaped with desert landscaping that is easier to maintain. Also, drought tolerant landscaping will reduce the quantity of water and in turn the expense needed to sustain it.

## TYPICAL PROGRAM COSTS

As with park sites, each recreational program will have an impact on operation costs. Program costs vary considerably depending on the type of program, its location, length of time the program is offered, and the number of participants. For general accounting purposes, costs associated with various programs are estimated to be as follows:

### NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS:

Neighborhood centers, also known as recreation centers, are common in neighborhood parks and are designed to accommodate certain recreational programs. Because they are less than 10,000 square feet in size, they are smaller than special use centers, such as the Doolittle Senior Citizens Center, and smaller than community centers and leisure service centers. The annual estimated program costs for such centers are as follows:

Position/Unit	Cost
Program Coordinator (1)	@ \$50,685
Receptionist (1)	@ \$15,500
Building Assistant (1)	@ \$10,550
Program Assistant (1)	@ \$19,650
Operating cost	@ <u>\$26,050</u>
Total	\$96,385



*Craigin Park*

## COMMUNITY AND SPECIAL USE CENTERS:

Community and special use centers range in size from 20,000 to 30,000 square feet. For such centers, one full time equivalent recreational, cultural or senior citizen program coordinator and one part time equivalent worker are required for each 2,500 square feet of program space. Other costs include utilities, materials, services and supplies, and administrative/support costs from other City departments. Accordingly, approximately \$250,000 is required for recreation programs in each center.

## LEISURE SERVICE CENTERS:

Leisure service centers are facilities that are much larger than neighborhood, community and special purpose centers, approaching 50,000 square feet in size. A detailed and thorough study was prepared by the Department of Leisure Services to determine the costs for programs at the new Northwest Leisure Services Center. Page 54 of a document dated August 17, 1999 and entitled *"Professional Services Agreement for the Operation and Management of (programs at) the Northwest Leisure Service Center"* summarizes the results of the study. From the report, estimated expenditures total \$1,110,075. These expenditures, however, are offset by an estimated \$1,146,860 in revenues generated from program fees for a "net profit" (sic) of \$36,785. Because of the level of detail that was used in the study, these cost figures may be used to approximate the costs for such centers.

## AQUATIC PROGRAMS

Swimming pools as recreational facilities have different staffing requirements from parks or program facilities, as they are regulated by both building code and health department. Each pool, for example, is required to have a certain number of life guards. In addition to life guards, each pool will need at least one manager, a cashier, and locker room attendants. If special aquatics facilities are provided, such as water slides and in-pool play structures, additional staff and lifeguards are needed. Costs also vary depending on whether the facility is seasonal or year around. These expenses are outlined in Table #13.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

The City's capital improvements program contains funding for new parks, based on a five-year horizon, which is updated annually. The items approved through this process represent the approved priority list for spending capital funds. It is recommended that recreational developments requiring capital expenditure be closely coordinated through the capital improvements program so that budgeting and parks planning priorities are linked logically and efficiently. The City's 2000 to 2005 CIP provides \$184,115,137 in funding for projects that include construction, renovation, and upgrades



**TABLE 13. OPERATIONS COSTS FOR POOLS**

POOL TYPE / STAFF	HOURLY / WEEKLY COSTS	TOTAL
<b><u>Seasonal Pool (12 weeks)</u></b>		
Pool Manager (1)	@ \$12.00/hr. x 40 hrs. x 12 weeks =	\$ 5,760
Assistant (1)	@ \$6.00/hr. x 40 hrs. x 12 weeks =	2,880
Lifeguards (12)	@ \$7.50/hr. x 40 hrs. x 12 weeks =	<u>54,000</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 62,640</b>
<b><u>Seasonal Pool Extended (18 weeks)</u></b>		
Pool Manager (1)	@ \$12.00/hr. x 40 hrs. x 18 weeks =	\$ 8,640
Pool Manager (1)	@ \$9.25/hr. x 40 hrs. x 18 weeks =	6,660
Assistant (1)	@ \$6.00/hr. x 40 hrs. x 18 weeks =	4,320
Lifeguards (15)	@ \$7.50/hr. x 40 hrs. x 18 weeks =	<u>81,000</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 95,820</b>
<b><u>Seasonal Pool Year Round</u></b>		
Pool Manager (1)	@ \$12.00/hr. x 40 hrs. x 52 weeks =	\$ 24,960
Pool Manager (2)	@ \$9.50/hr. x 40 hrs. x 52 weeks =	39,560
Assistant (2)	@ \$6.00/hr. x 40 hrs. x 52 weeks =	24,960
Lifeguards (23)	@ \$7.50/hr. x 40 hrs. x 52 weeks =	<u>358,800</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 448,280</b>

for park facilities, senior centers, equipment, community centers, and facility renovations. Based upon the estimates above, without accounting for inflation or other economic factors, \$124 million of the five-year total amount should be devoted to park land acquisition and the development of new parks.

For the City to meet its objectives to establish needed parks and recreational facilities, the capital improvements program should include (in current dollars) \$24.8 million per year for land acquisition and development. Through the year 2020, this equates to a total of \$496 million. These figures would be substantially reduced if the land is obtained from BLM at no or nominal cost.

## PRIORITIES

For the City to meet its needs for recreational opportunities, it will be necessary to develop a list of projects that are prioritized in the capital improvements program on the basis of the highest to lowest needs on a year-by-year basis. To assist in that endeavor, this plan document provides principles and criteria for prioritizing capital projects for parks and recreation in each of the following categories over the next two decades:

- Priorities for the acquisition of land for parks.
- Priorities to determine the timing of park development and the provision of park facilities.
- Priorities for the ongoing operations of parks.

These priorities are specific to the park classification within the system of parks. The recommendations, therefore, are addressed by park type.

## **ACQUISITION PRIORITIES**

### **GENERAL**

Land for publicly owned parks in Las Vegas has historically been acquired from the developers of residential housing in the area of the parks or from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in locations near the edge of the City. Some parks have been developed on land which was acquired by or traded to the City for other purposes.

In the past, as a general rule, the City has not purchased land for park development; rather, funds have been allocated solely for development. If the identified shortfall of park areas in established neighborhoods is to be rectified, it will be necessary to explore alternate land acquisition options. Land needs to be acquired for parks in neighborhoods that are, for the most part, built out but are not well serviced, based upon the minimum standards for park land or that are beyond the maximum suggested travel distance to a park. Since lands for such parks may have to be acquired by the City as the opportunities arise. Accordingly, future budgets for parks should include funds for acquiring land by direct purchase.

### **MINI-PARKS / URBAN PLAZAS**

Small spaces are needed in established areas of the community for public gatherings and events, particularly in the downtown area and in existing neighborhoods where the amount of developed park space is significantly below the recommended minimum standards. Such areas are particularly important to support infill development, redevelopment, and high density residential development where increases in population further increase the need for recreation. The acquisition of sites for mini-parks/urban parks should be considered a high priority in built-out areas that are devoid of recreational opportunities.

### **NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS**

The acquisition of sites for neighborhood parks for all neighborhoods generally should be considered the highest priority. Such parks should primarily consist of areas for passive and active recreational areas in response to neighborhood recreational demand.

In areas of new development, neighborhood parks should be obtained from the developers of the neighborhoods in which they are to be located. For established neighborhoods, in which there is a lack of neighborhood park space in accordance with the recommended minimum standards, the City should



pursue the acquisition of land for neighborhood park space as opportunities arise. Such opportunities are likely to be limited, as parcels of more than an acre in size that are available for parks development may be rare. The acquisition of land in residential areas not well served or significantly under-served by parks should be a high priority.

### **SCHOOL PARKS**

Acquiring land in proximity to an existing or proposed school site is an efficient method to augment park space. Acquisition of sites adjacent to or in conjunction with schools through a joint use agreement should be considered a high priority in under-served neighborhoods but a low to medium priority elsewhere.

### **COMMUNITY PARKS**

Due to the large area needed for a community park, acquiring the park land early in the development process while the land is still available should be a high priority. Once a site is acquired, however, priority for its development depends on the demand as population in the area served by the park expands.

### **REGIONAL PARKS**

As with community parks, the acquisition of the land for these large parks is a high priority while the land is still available early in the development process. Since they serve a community-wide demand for a range of major recreational facilities and serve as a venue for major outdoor events, their priority for development should be established in conjunction with the priority for other city-wide capital projects.

### **NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS**

These areas generally consist of passive natural open spaces that do not support recreational use. While the acquisition of some natural resource areas within the city boundary is desirable, the fringe (BLM) portions of the community are better suited to address the demand for this type of recreational opportunity.

Further, the opportunities for natural resource areas are generally limited to sites with specific natural elements such as dramatic physical features or relief, vegetation, or wildlife. Accordingly, the acquisition of such areas within the community is a low to medium long-term priority in most cases.

### **SPORTS COMPLEXES**

These facilities tend to benefit select recreational groups (e.g. Little League). Consolidating these activities within a sports complex site creates certain desirable efficiencies, provides room for tournament events which could not be sponsored on traditional park sites, and frees up sports fields in other parks.



*Dexter Park*

The acquisition of land for these facilities should be considered a medium priority, depending on a more detailed analysis of specific needs.

## **SPECIAL USES**

Examples of special use park activities include model plane flying, equestrian activities, and rock climbing. As with sports complexes, such facilities are generally limited to certain special interest groups. Such special uses, however, do not have the same economies of scale that aggregating sports activities can achieve. Therefore, the acquisition of land for these uses should generally have a low priority. The acquisition of land for community-wide parks should rate a higher priority than the acquisition of land for specialized recreational activities.

## **PRIVATE PARKS/RECREATION FACILITIES**

No priority for the public acquisition of lands for private use is recommended, since the City does not fund private parks.

## **GOLF COURSES**

Golf courses provide recreational opportunities to a specialized group of people. A more specialized analysis should be performed to determine the need to acquire more land for this activity.

## **DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES**

The development of park land for recreational use should be prioritized to ensure that the entire community is provided recreational opportunities in relation to recommended spatial, demographic, and functional standards. The priorities for development are also considered in relation to the classification of parks as well as the area in which the park is intended to serve.

## **MINI-PARKS/URBAN PLAZAS AND NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS**

As a general rule, the development of neighborhood parks should rate a higher priority in comparison to the development of other parks, particularly in existing under-served neighborhoods. In the downtown area or in heavily urbanized areas where the development of larger parks is impractical, the development of small urban parks should be the highest priority.

## **COMMUNITY PARKS / REGIONAL PARKS**

Since community and regional parks serve a city-wide demand for a range of major recreational facilities and to serve as a venue for major outdoor events, their priority for development should be established at a city-wide level and in conjunction with the priority for other city-wide capital projects. The development of these parks should be phased in accordance with



the demand in growing areas for neighborhood parks, as they also function as neighborhood parks that provide service to surrounding neighborhoods.

## NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS

Natural resource areas by definition need little in the way of capital improvements which usually are limited to parking areas, signs and trail development. The priority for funding their development should be lower than for developing neighborhood or community parks facilities. However, this prioritization may be adjusted if the opportunities arise to acquire non-municipal funding on a case by case basis.

## PARK IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES

The improvement of existing parks and recreational facilities should not necessarily be delayed to allocate funds to new park development but must be carefully balanced. In an area under-served by park facilities where land for additional park space is not likely to be available, a higher priority should be given to improving the existing park space than to improving existing parks elsewhere. Generally, given the existing need for parks in the community, the improvement of existing parks in areas significantly under-served by public park space should be a high priority.

Small urban parks in the core of the community often require special attention. Due to the costs associated with maintaining small park areas (i.e. under one acre), it is recommended xeriscapes and other low maintenance materials be incorporated into the design and development of new parks and into the improvements of existing parks.

## PRIORITY SUMMARY

From the discussion above, the high, medium and low priorities are outlined as follows:

### HIGH PRIORITY

- Develop neighborhood parks in areas with deficient service levels prior to the construction of other types of parks.
- Develop mini-parks/urban parks in high density areas prior to the development of other types of parks.
- Increase recreational opportunities in areas of high density development to meet the minimum functional and demographic standards for high density areas.
- Require that new residential development provide adequate neighborhood parks as development occurs.
- Acquire land for neighborhood parks in existing but under-served areas prior to the provision of parks in areas with adequate park service.



*Doolittle Park*

- Identify sites for regional, community parks and natural resource areas to secure adequate land area for regional and community park purposes prior to development of the surrounding area.
- Improve and renovate existing parks in underserved areas where land acquisition and development is unlikely prior to the development of new facilities in existing parks.

### **MEDIUM PRIORITY**

- Establish park sites adjacent to schools in underserved neighborhoods.
- Establish community parks throughout the city in relation to the spatial, demographic, and functional demand analysis.
- Establish greenways as park system connectors throughout the community.
- Encourage the establishment of sports complex facilities for coordinated events for specific recreational groups.

### **LOW PRIORITY**

- Establish special use parks.
- Establish natural resource areas.
- Establish greenways that connect the park system.

## **SELECTION SYSTEM**

To assist in prioritizing capital projects for funding, particularly amongst projects that have the same level of priority, a priority selection system is suggested. Listed below are criteria developed from the priorities discussed above. The criteria are assigned points based upon their relative importance to the parks system. Every project is then evaluated on the basis of the total number of points from those criteria in the list that the project meets and compared to other projects. A project which scores a higher number of points than another project is given a higher priority for funding. This classification system should only be used to assist in prioritizing parks projects; there may be other reasons for selecting one park project over another, including previous commitments, funding constraints, timing, and external factors.

- Acquisition of a site for a neighborhood park in an existing but under-served area. (3 points)
- Acquisition of a site for a neighborhood, community or a regional park in an area where such a park is needed and in which development of the site is imminent. (3 points)
- Acquisition of a neighborhood park adjacent to or part of a school in an underserved predominately single family residential area. (2 points)

- Acquisition of a greenway as a park system connector in a high visibility corridor. (2 points)
- Acquisition of land for a sports complex. (2 points)
- Acquisition of a greenway as a park system connector not in a high visibility corridor. (1 point)
- Acquisition of a natural resource area. (1 point)
- The acquisition of land for special uses. (1 point)
- Development of a neighborhood park in an existing underserved residential area. (3 points)
- Development of a mini-park/urban park in high density residential areas or in the downtown area. (3 points)
- Development of sports complex facilities for coordinated events and for specific recreational groups. (2 points)
- Development of a neighborhood park that provides service to an existing residential area. (2 points)
- Development of a greenway in a high visibility corridor. (1 point)
- Development of a special use area. (1 point)
- Development of a natural resource area. (1 point)
- Improvement in recreational opportunities that meet the criteria of the Parks Element in high density residential areas. (3 points)
- Improvement in recreational opportunities that meet the criteria of the Parks Element in underserved residential areas. (3 points)
- Renovation of an existing park. (3 points)



*Ed Fountain Park*

## FUNDING ALTERNATIVES

All of the above activities require funding sources which are administered by the Finance and Business Services Department and its Treasury Division. The primary revenue sources that the City has for new park construction are city general revenue funds, the residential construction tax, and bonds. Additional funds to supplement these sources are discussed below.

Some of the fee-for-service programs provided by the Leisure Services Department help off-set the cost of providing programs to the community. Other programs are supplemented by city general revenue funds. The community schools program is self-sufficient.

## EXISTING FUNDING SOURCES

The City derives funds for parks and recreational purposes, including the acquisition, development, and operations

of parks, recreational facilities, and programs from a number of sources. The major existing revenue sources along with a detailed explanation of each are listed in Appendix C.

## POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

To adequately serve the recreational needs of the community's residents, a large monetary commitment by the City will be necessary. Alternative revenue sources to the City's general fund need to be pursued. Potential revenue sources along with a detailed explanation of each are listed in Appendix C.

The most logical source of revenue for parks/open space acquisition and development and park renovation and to enable a citywide disbursement of funds based on actual need would be a voter approved bonding measure. A recently passed medium term bond resulted in the funding of 11 parks projects, including new parks development and improvements in all sectors of the City. It is anticipated that a larger, longer term bond would address additional park deficiencies (spatial, demographic, and functional) identified in this plan and give community residents a greater variety of recreational opportunities to enhance their quality of life.

Another funding source that should be explored with the Bureau of Land Management is a "transfer of reversionary interest" to land acquired under a "recreation and public purpose act" (R & PP) conveyance. The transfer of reversionary interest permits the interest in land that is secured under an R & PP to be transferred to non-federal lands within a relatively short distance. If the transfer of reversionary interest could be applied to non-federal lands a considerable distance away, as in older sections of the community, the process could be used to a great advantage for obtaining land for parks in older areas of the community.

## SUMMARY

The purpose of the Master Plan Parks Element is to provide a strategy for an adequate amount of parks and recreational facilities in convenient and accessible locations to best serve the needs of the community. Its principles and standards serve as a guide for the formulation of a five-year capital improvements program as well as a basis for programming capital projects over a 20 year time period to satisfy the community's long-range needs for parks and recreational opportunities at full build-out.

Section 278.150 through Section 278.230 of the Nevada Revised Statutes contain the enabling legislation for the development and adoption of a master plan, more particularly a "recreation plan." The Master Plan Parks Element is the recreation plan for the city. The recommendations, principles and criteria of this plan form the legal basis for requiring the provision of parks by the development community.



The Parks Element evaluates the present parks system in light of recognized national standards and identifies the adequacies and deficiencies of the present system. It evaluates the spatial distribution, accessibility, location, quantity, size and facilities of the community's existing parks. Projections of functional needs based on the national standards were then made to the year 2020, accounting for local conditions, constraints and preferences.

The recommendations, principles and criteria of the Parks Element provide the general basis for determining the number, location and size of parks. In establishing each neighborhood park, a neighborhood plan preceded by a needs assessment is essential. The needs assessment will assist in determining the optimum size and location for each park and the recreational facilities needed for the neighborhood.

The Parks Element concludes that a ratio of 2.5 acres of strategically located neighborhood, community and regional park space for every 1,000 residents, as adopted by the Southern Nevada Strategic Planning Authority, is both a realistic and attainable goal. It also concludes that the national standard of one to two acres of neighborhood park space for each 1,000 residents should be strictly followed; state and federal parks and reserves already provide abundant regional recreational opportunities for the community.

The Parks Element identifies a need for an additional 84 neighborhood parks, most of which are shown in undeveloped or ranch estates areas where the parks would be provided during the course of development when and if it occurs. Deficiencies in neighborhood park space have also been identified in older areas of the community.

All together, the Parks Element identifies a need for an additional 1550 acres of park land for the next 20 years when total build-out of the community is anticipated. At an average cost of \$250,000 an acre to develop parks, a total of \$387.5 million or \$19.38 million per year in projected funding will be needed during this time frame for this purpose. This cost does not include land acquisition and annual maintenance.

The Parks Element indicates that approximately \$5,000 per acre per year is needed for the maintenance of park land. It is important that the expenses for maintenance be budgeted annually to sustain the parks system and keep it in good condition. Including parks, school parks and greenways, there are 856 acres of land the City maintains. At \$5,000 per acre, \$4.28 million should be set aside for maintenance in the annual operating budget separate for this purpose. For each 78 acres added per year to the parks inventory to 2020, an additional \$390,000 per year should be added to the annual budget.

Finding the revenues necessary to implement these needs will be difficult. Raising the "residential construction tax" is one alternative, since it provides only a fourth to a third of the amount of funding needed to provide neighborhood parks for new developments, not including parks in already developed areas. A legislative



*Elkhorn Durango Park*

increase in the amount of this tax and the use of bonds are sources that should be explored.

“Transfers of reversionary interest (TRI),” is a mechanism which might allow the City to exchange land owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for non-federal lands. The BLM currently has not established procedures or standards for implementing TRI's. The City should pursue this option with the BLM which could save the City a substantial amount of money to acquire land for parks in already developed areas.

The planning process was initiated with a studio or charrette held on August 11, 1999. Staff from several departments met to discuss goals, objectives and standards applicable to a parks plan, and deficiencies in the present system.

A large number of groups participated in the development of the Parks Element. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), composed of various staff members from several departments, was formed to provide input throughout the planning process. In addition, a Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC), composed of persons involved or interested in parks and recreation from the local agencies and private organizations, met four times to help formulate the plan.

Eleven neighborhood meetings and workshops were held throughout the community over a three month period to inform the public of the proposed planning process and to solicit public input. Prior to these meetings, all registered neighborhood associations were notified by mail, two advertisements were placed in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, advertisements in Spanish were placed in the *El Heraldo de Las Vegas*, all community input meeting attendees were notified by mail, all members of the Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan Steering Committee were notified by mail, and a promotional story was run on KVVU-TV (FOX 5) News. Presentations on the Parks Element were made to the City Council on September 15, 1999 and to the Planning Commission on December 15, 1999. The Planning Commission unanimously adopted the plan on January 27, 2000.

# APPENDIX A

## PARKS INVENTORY

This inventory is structured with the parks listed alphabetically and includes the size and specific use of and improvements to each park. Also noted are adjacent uses that rely upon the park for recreational use. A fundamental element of the inventory is the identification of each park's effectiveness, needs, and potential. Map #1 shows the location of each park and Table #14 lists the parks, their acreage, and the various recreational facilities provided.



## CITY PARKS

### ALOHA SHORES PARK

#### *Description:*

Aloha Shores Park is located adjacent to the Rainbow Library at the intersection of Buffalo Drive and Sauer Drive. The park was developed in 1997 upon acquisition of the site by the City from the BLM. There are no boundaries between the library and park, resulting in the park appearing larger than its 4.03 acres. On-site parking is not provided but is available at the library's parking lot, along the adjacent street, and at the Building Services center located south of the park. Recreational improvements at the park include a sand volleyball court, bocce, horse shoe pits, roller hockey court, playground, a picnic area, and restrooms.



#### *Assessment:*

This park provides additional recreation activities for the Cheyenne Detention Basin Park located east of Ronemus Drive.

### ANGEL PARK SOUTH

#### *Description:*

Angel Park South consists of approximately 10 acres of land and is located west of Durango Drive opposite the intersection of West Cliff Avenue with Durango Drive. The park is part of an overall area consisting of 640 acres of land that was obtained by the City through a patent from the BLM. The entire tract includes Angel Park South, the Bruce Trent Park, the Las Vegas Sports Complex, the Angel Park Golf Course and some undeveloped areas that are located on both sides of Rampart Boulevard in the vicinity of Summerlin Parkway. Angel Park South has an attractive view of Mount Charleston and the Angel Park Golf Club. A jogging track, a fitness court, tennis courts, a playground, and picnic areas with barbecue grills make the park a desirable neighborhood focal point. The park



### *Ethel Pearson Park*

**TABLE 14. CITY PARKS AND FACILITIES**

Park Name	Location	Gross Acres	Net Acres	Improved Acres	Baseball/Softball	Basketball	Bocce	Fitness Court	Football/Soccer	Frisbee Course	Horseshoe Pit	Jogging Track	Shuffleboard	Tennis	Volleyball	Barbeque Grills	Individual Picnic Tables	Group Picnic Areas	Playground	Restrooms	Roller Rink	Pool	Reservable	Concession Stand
Alona Shores Park	Buffalo & Sauer	4.03	4.03	4.03																				
Angel Park	Durango & Cheyenne	6.11	6.11	6.11																				
AnSan Sister City Park	Ducharme & Villa Monterey	15.65	7.83	7.83																				
Baker Park	10th & St. Louis	6.76	6.76	6.76																				
Bob Baskin Park	Valmora & Oakley	6.18	6.18	6.18																				
Bruce Trent Park	Rompert & Vegas	28.00	10.00	10.00																				
Buckskin Basin	Gowan & Buckskin	39.17	39.17	39.17																				
Charles Ray Park	Washington & Tonopah	0.10	0.10	0.10																				
Charleston Heights Park	Maverick & Snake Ranch	3.90	3.90	3.90																				
Charleston Heights Neighborhood Preservation Park	Torrey Pines & Hyde	7.12	7.12	7.12																				
Chester Stupak Park	231 Boston	1.23	1.23	1.23																				
Children's Memorial Park	Gowan & Torrey Pines	34.68	29.82	29.82																				
Coleman Park	Daybreak & Carmen	4.00	4.00	4.00																				
Cragin Park	Fullton & Hinson	4.08	3.27	3.27																				
Dexter Park	Upland & Trent	4.70	4.70	4.70																				
Doolittle Park	Lake Mead & J	18.37	15.26	15.26																				
Ed Fountain Park	Vegas & Decatur	46.97	29.82	29.82																				
Elkhorn Durango Ball Fields	Elkhorn & Durango	33.75	33.75	33.75																				
Ethel Pearson Park	Washington & D	2.59	2.59	2.59																				
Fitzgerald Tot Lot	H & Monice	0.86	0.86	0.70																				
Freedom Park	Mojave & Washington	68.08	68.08	68.08																				
Hadland Park	28th & Stewart	13.64	13.64	13.64																				
Heers Park	Smoke Ranch & Zorro	7.07	7.07	7.07																				
Heritage Park	Washington & Las Vegas Blvd.																							
Hills Park	Hillpointe & Pinewood Hills	13.50	13.50	13.50																				
Huntridge Circle Park	Maryland & Franklin	3.14	3.14	3.14																				
James Gray III Park	Owens & B	7.18	7.18	7.18																				
Jaycee Park	St. Louis & Eastern	18.40	18.40	18.40																				
Lone Mountain Northwest Family Park	Lone Mountain & Rainbow																							
Lorenzi Park	Washington & Twin Lakes	59.37	59.37	59.37																				
Lubertha Johnson Park	Balzar & Concord	1.60	1.60	1.60																				
Mary Dutton Park	Charleston & 10th	0.20	0.20	0.20																				
Mirabelli Park	6200 Elton	1.41	1.41	1.41																				
Pueblo Park - Eastern Park	Jack Rabbit & Silver Plateau	3.60	3.60	3.60																				
Pueblo Park - Middle Park	Sedona Sunset & Sedona Sunrise	1.21	1.21	1.21																				
Pueblo Park - Western Park	Isara Vista	0.28	0.28	0.28																				
Pueblo Park - Trail	Lake Mead Boulevard & Buffalo	81.16	81.16	81.16																				
Rainbow Family Park	Oakey Boulevard & Bel Castro	26.48	26.48	26.48																				
Rafael Rivera Park	Stewart & Mojave	10.00	9.26	9.26																				
Rotary Park	Charleston & Hinson	3.34	3.34	3.34																				
Stewart Place Park	Marion & Chantilly	3.45	3.45	3.45																				
West Charleston Lions Park / Hyde Essex Circle Park	Essex & Fullton	4.50	4.50	4.50																				
W. Wayne Bunker Family Park	Tenaya & Alexander	13.75	13.75	13.75																				
Wildwood Park	Shadow Mountain & Wildwood	1.24	1.24	1.24																				
Woolter Family Park	Rock Springs & Vegas	9.22	9.22	9.22																				
Total parks		#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	16	11	3	10	13	1	6	12	0	12	8	23	23	12	29	21	1	1	8	1

**TABLE 14. CITY PARKS AND FACILITIES, continued**

\*Acreage from ArcView, used Accessor's Acreage except unusual circumstance, see notes.

**Notes:**

1. Bruce Trent Park: Gross Acres = The improved park plus the Las Vegas Sports Park. Net and Improved Acres = Gross Acres minus the Las Vegas Sports Park.
2. Childrens' Memorial Park: Gross Acres = Land including adjacent Water District well sites. Net Acres = Park minus approximate Water District well sites.
3. Craigin Park: Gross Acres = Land including adjacent fire station. Net Acres = Gross Acres minus fire station area, includes pool.
4. Doolittle Park: Gross Acres = Land including portion of adjacent library and Doolittle Center. Net Acres = Gross Acres minus library and Doolittle Center.
5. Ed Fountain Park: Gross Acres = Land including portion of adjacent city garage and portion of adjacent city garage and portion of adjacent Municipal Golf Course.
6. Lorenzi Park: Gross Acres = facilities in park boundaries including Garden Club, Las Vegas Art Museum, Lorenzi Adaptive Center, Nevada State Museum & Historical Society, and Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza.
7. Rafael Rivera Park: Gross Acres = Land including Rafael Rivera Center.

has open areas that can be used for active recreational uses such as croquet, Frisbee™, and similar activities for smaller spaces. The park was developed with funding from the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority. Recent improvements to the park include a resurfaced jogging track.

**Assessment:**

The playground equipment needs replacing with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant structures. Immediately north of the park is a detention basin that was constructed within a pre-existing wash. These features may provide an opportunity for a trail system with Angel Park South serving as a trailhead.

**AN SAN SISTER CITY PARK**

**Description:**

Located on Ducharme Avenue, adjacent to Walter Johnson Middle School, the AnSan Sister City Park consists of 7.83 acres and is currently under development with two of three phases completed. Development began in July, 1992, and the remainder of the park (Phase 3) has been funded and is nearing completion. A small parking lot for 20 vehicles is provided on the north side of the park. On-street parking is also available on adjacent streets. Other improvements include ample sidewalks, a playground, a restroom facility, benches, water fountains, and



*Fitzgerald Tot Lot*

berms that are used for bicycle jumping. Included in Phase 3 of the development is the removal of the berms which require high levels of maintenance and continued turf repair. The undeveloped portion of the park will be improved with a jogging track, picnic shelters, turf areas, and desert landscaping. Two modular buildings are located on the east side of the park. These buildings house the offices and a track break room for the school programs such as SafeKey for youths and adults.

***Assessment:***

Maintenance records indicate that this park is subject to a high level of vandalism. Future plans for park improvements will need to assess types of improvements that are less subject to vandalism.

**BAKER PARK**

***Description:***

Baker Park is located at 10<sup>th</sup> Street and St. Louis Avenue in the southeast part of the community and consists of 6.76 acres. J.C. Fremont School is located adjacent to the park. The Baker Pool and the Baker Community School building are also located within the boundaries of the park. The park has mature trees, well-worn playground equipment, a dual play soccer and baseball field, and a restroom facility. The playground and play fields are reserved for school use from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Baker Pool also serves the J.C. Fremont School during school hours, but after school hours, the pool is available for park users.

***Assessment:***

In 2000, the pool is to be renovated and locker rooms for the pool are to be constructed. The school's locker rooms are presently used for the pool, causing access and security problems for the school. Therefore, the new locker rooms will be built specifically for pool use. Restrooms included with the new locker rooms will be open to park users as well as pool users. In addition to the pool renovation and locker room construction, the park is scheduled for new playground equipment and a soccer field.

**BOB BASKIN PARK**

***Description:***

Bob Baskin Park is located along West Oakey Boulevard, east of Valley View Boulevard and consists of 6.18 acres. The park contains tennis courts, a restroom facility, a rose garden, a play field, a jogging track, picnic tables, benches, and a playground. The park is scattered with mature canopy trees. A bus stop is located along Oakey Boulevard adjacent to the park's parking lot. There are no joint uses associated with this park, and it is available for use by the public throughout the day.

The tennis court lighting system is time-controlled so the lights cannot be used after 10:00 p.m.

***Assessment:***

The park playground equipment and restrooms are scheduled for upgrades in 2000.

**BRUCE TRENT PARK**

***Description:***

Bruce Trent Park is located at the intersection of Vegas Drive and Rampart Boulevard and consists of 10 acres, but it is part of a larger 640 acre tract obtained through a BLM patent. The tract includes in addition to Bruce Trent Park, the Las Vegas Sports Complex, Angel Park South, the Angel Park Golf Course, and some unimproved parcels. Bruce Trent Park was dedicated in August, 1992. The park is improved with tennis courts, a splash area, a playground, picnic areas, and a jogging track. A tree grove has been established in the park with donations of trees from the public. A mobile stage and events area is located along Vegas Drive.

***Assessment:***

An existing mining claim is located along the south side of the park. When the claim expires, the City may improve the property for recreational use. This property may eventually provide an important link for a trail system that includes the Pueblo Trail.

**BUCKSKIN BASIN PARK**

***Description:***

This park is located at the northwest corner of Buckskin Avenue and Tenaya Way and consists of 39.17 acres. The site is leased from the BLM. The primary use of the park is for soccer fields which are located inside a detention basin. Accessory parking and a restroom facility are located adjacent to and outside the detention basin.

***Assessment:***

In July, 1999, the City Council approved the final phase of this park to establish playground equipment, green space, and a jogging track. Medium-term bonds issued in 1999 provide funding for these improvements. Immediately north of this park, across Gowan Road, is the larger Gowan South detention basin and farther north is the existing Bunker Family Park (W. Wayne Bunker Family Park). The larger basin is to be improved with play fields.



*Freedom Park*

## **CHARLESTON HEIGHTS PARK**

### ***Description:***

The Charleston Heights Park is located at Maverick Street and Santa Cruz Avenue, just south of Smoke Ranch and consists of 3.9 acres. The park is fully developed with a playground; picnic areas; a jogging track; and tennis, basketball, and roller hockey courts.

### ***Assessment:***

Future improvements are not anticipated at this time.

## **CHARLESTON HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION PARK**

### ***Description:***

The Charleston Heights Neighborhood Preservation Park is located at Hyde Avenue and Torrey Pines Drive and consists of 7.12 acres. It was established in 1998. Improvements include multiple lighted soccer fields, a restroom facility, a playground, a picnic shelter, and a parking lot. The park is across the street from the Garside School baseball fields and adjacent to the O.K. Adcock Elementary School. An existing trail extends along U.S. 95 adjacent to the north boundary of the park.

### ***Assessment:***

This park will be affected by two future public improvements: the widening of U.S. 95 and the construction of a new O.K. Adcock School building. Diligence will be required to include the existing trail in the proposed design, construction and widening of U.S. 95. The existing park is not designated as a trailhead but could serve as such for the trail. The existing park improvements will be removed to allow for the construction of the new O.K. Adcock School on this park site. The new school's playground and play fields will be located west of the new school. The playground and play fields may be established as a school park which the general public may use during non-school programmed hours. The existing soccer fields will be replaced with new fields on unimproved park sites located at the northeast corner of Hualapai Drive and Alta Drive.

## **CHESTER STUPAK PARK**

### ***Description:***

This park is located at 231 Boston Street and consists of 1.23 acres. It contains a playground, picnic tables, and side-walks that provide access from the north and south sides. This small park is surrounded with single family residences, duplexes, and multifamily residences. The Chester Stupak Community Center is located across the street, just west of

the park. Outdoor activities associated with the Community Center are conducted in the park.

***Assessment:***

This park is well maintained. However, because of the high level of park use, continual maintenance and more frequent equipment repair and replacement will be required.

## **CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL PARK**

***Description:***

This park is located between Rainbow Boulevard and Torrey Pines Drive on the south side of Gowan Road and consists of 29.82 acres. Adjacent development includes a water well site and single family residences. The park was initially dedicated in December, 1992 after a land swap with the Las Vegas Valley Water District. In 1998 and 1999, the park was substantially renovated and expanded. A key feature of the park is a memorial for community children. Upon request, a tree may be planted in memory of a child and the child's name added to a kiosk in the park. Other features of the park include a jogging track, baseball fields, playgrounds, soccer fields, basketball courts, tennis courts, and roller hockey courts.

***Assessment:***

A potential sidewalk trail could connect this park with the Buckskin Basin Park located west of U.S. 95.



## **CLARENCE RAY PARK**

***Description:***

The City's newest park is located east of Robin Street north of Bonanza Road and is the result of a collaborative effort between the Clark County School District, Clark County Government, and the City of Las Vegas. This urban park consists of 0.1 acres and is designed with a playground for use by young children.

***Assessment:***

The potential needs and opportunities of this park have not been determined, but it is very restricted in size. An assessment should be made for future park needs upon the park's one-year anniversary.



*Hadland Park*

## **COLEMAN PARK**

***Description:***

Coleman Park is a small, 4.0 acre neighborhood park located at the northeast corner of Carmen Boulevard and Daybreak Road. It has improvements that include a playground, picnic tables, and barbecue grills. There is also an open area for field

play, although it is not formally designed for either baseball or soccer activities.

***Assessment:***

The park's playground equipment is scheduled for replacement in 1999. This equipment will comply with current park standards for accessibility and safety.

**Cragin Park**

***Description:***

Cragin Park is located at Fulton Place and Bedford Road, adjacent to Rotary Park and the Hyde Park Junior High School, and consists of 3.27 acres. The park contains a swimming pool which has shared use with the school. The park's play fields include lighted, dual purpose soccer and baseball fields. Other features include basketball courts, picnic tables and barbecue grills.

***Assessment:***

This park is well used, as it is shared by the school for the school's play field activities. Its limited development with only ball fields is supplemented by the passive recreational uses of Rotary Park.

**Dexter Park**

***Description:***

Dexter Park is located at the northeast corner of Trent Place and Upland Boulevard and consists of 4.7 acres. Improvements include a parking lot, a playground, a small baseball field, picnic tables, barbecue grills, a restroom facility, basketball courts, and two tennis courts. Mature trees provide shade for the playground and picnic tables.

***Assessment:***

After rain showers, the park is severely inundated with storm water. Future drainage improvements should be highly regarded. Other needed improvements include a new restroom facility, upgraded play equipment to meet current safety and access standards, and resurfacing of the tennis courts. The Red Rock Swim Club property is located east of the park on the opposite side of Upland Boulevard. That property is unimproved and could be used as an adjunct to Dexter Park.

**Doolittle Park**

***Description:***

Doolittle Park, located on Lake Mead Boulevard at "J" Street, has evolved into a campus that includes the West Las Vegas Library that was built in 1988, the West Las Vegas Art

Center which includes a theater, and the Doolittle Recreation Center with its senior services and swimming pool. Initially developed in 1965, the park consists of 15.26 acres. Other park improvements include a playground, a ball field, a jogging track, and picnic areas. Mature trees line the side of the park next to a parking lot. Building renovations are underway at the Doolittle Recreation Center to rehabilitate the swimming pool, renovate the senior center, and renovate the gym and entrance. These renovations, totaling \$6 million, will improve the existing conditions and make the park more useful.

***Assessment:***

Upon completion of the renovations, diligent management will be necessary to ensure the long-term viability of the park.



**ED FOUNTAIN PARK**

***Description:***

Ed Fountain Park is located east of Decatur Boulevard and south of Vegas Drive and consists of 29.82 acres. This park provides play fields for a variety of activities for multiple sports leagues. The park is adjacent to the Municipal Golf Course, U.S. Wildlife offices, and BLM offices. In 1998, three lighted Pop Warner football fields were constructed and are the primary features of this park. Other park improvements include baseball fields, picnic areas and a playground. Future improvements include a Pop Warner football headquarters building to be built on the Vegas Drive side of the park. That building will require 1.5 to two acres of unimproved park land.



***Assessment:***

The park's restroom facility should be upgraded and the playground equipment replaced to meet current safety and accessibility standards.

**ELKHORN DURANGO BALL FIELDS**

***Description:***

Located at Elkhorn Road and U.S. 95, this park consists of 33.75 acres and was developed in 1999. The ball fields are lighted and are intended for league play. A centrally located concessions stand and restroom facility have also been constructed.



***Heers Park***

***Assessment:***

A second construction phase, that will be completed in 2000, includes the development of the remaining portion of a parking lot and remaining programmable space. This approximately \$3 million phase is being funded with medium-term bonds approved on July 12, 1999.

## **ETHEL PEARSON PARK**

### ***Description:***

This park, which consists of 2.59 acres, is located within the right-of-way of Interstate 15, south of Washington Avenue in the West Las Vegas neighborhood. In July, 1999, the City Council approved a resolution designating Ethel Pearson Park as a “children’s park” for children who may be accompanied by an adult. An adult not accompanied by a child legally may be escorted from the park. The park improvements include swings, a jungle gym, a playground, a picnic shelter, a basketball court, and a tennis court.

### ***Assessment:***

The existing park equipment does not meet current safety and accessibility standards and should be replaced. The park is heavily used, requiring more frequent maintenance.

## **FITZGERALD TOT LOT**

### ***Description:***

This park, located on “H” Street, south of Owens Avenue, contains approximately .86 acres. On July 12, 1999, the City Council approved a resolution designating the Fitzgerald Tot Lot as a “children’s park” for children who may be accompanied by an adult. An adult not accompanied by a child legally may be escorted from the park. This park is a small neighborhood park that is improved with swings, a play ground, picnic tables, and barbecue grills. Mature trees provide shade for the picnic areas.

### ***Assessment:***

A small portion of the park next to the parking lot was established as a community tree nursery but was never used. The original tree nursery concept should be implemented or uses of the land should be evaluated for an alternative park use.

## **FREEDOM PARK**

### ***Description:***

This park is located at the southwest corner of Pecos Road and Washington Avenue and consists of 68.08 acres. Adjacent to the park are other government uses, including the Northeast Area Command Post of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, the Las Vegas Animal Shelter, the Las Vegas Fire and Rescue Training Center, the Clark County Family Courts campus, and the Las Vegas Equipment and Vehicle Yard. This park has the largest picnic shelter for groups in the City’s parks system. Special events hosted in this park include Cinco De Mayo and Corporate Challenge. The most recognized feature of the park is the multiple lighted soccer and baseball fields



used for sports leagues throughout the Las Vegas Valley. The west portion of the park is improved with a jogging track, swings, playground, picnic shelters, picnic tables, barbecue grills, horseshoe pits, and Frisbee™ golf. A duck pond is also located on the west side of the park.

***Assessment:***

Walkways should be installed along worn paths created by park users. The playground equipment needs to be upgraded to meet current safety and accessibility requirements. Because of the high volume of park users, another large picnic shelter is needed. Two additional restroom facilities need to be strategically located to accommodate the abundance of the park users.



**HADLAND PARK**

***Description:***

This park is located at the corner of Stewart Avenue and 28th Street and consists of 13.64 acres. Adjacent to the site is a private drive that provides access to parking and a Clark County School District bus staging lot. Immediately south of the site is the Variety School for special education and east of the site is the Roy Martin Junior High School and the Hadland swimming pool. Mature trees provide shade for the playground and picnic areas. The playground equipment is aged and well used. The park also contains picnic tables, barbecue grills, and a lighted baseball field.



***Assessment:***

This park needs a new restroom facility that meets the ADA requirements. The playground equipment also needs to be upgraded to meet current safety and access standards. Part of the park may be incorporated into a site located west of the park for a cultural center and senior citizens center.



**HEERS PARK**

***Description:***

This park is located in the midst of a residential subdivision just north of Smoke Ranch Road and consists of 7.07 acres. It has street frontage on Spanish Court, Plaza Verde Place, and Monte Carlo Drive. Park improvements include swings, a soccer field, a playground, and picnic tables.

***Hills Park***

***Assessment:***

A new restroom facility is proposed in 2000. In addition to the new restroom facility, the playground equipment is to be replaced to satisfy current safety and accessibility standards.

## HERITAGE PARK

### *Description:*

Located along Las Vegas Boulevard, south of Washington Street, this “park” abuts the Natural History Museum and the west parking lot of Cashman Field. A large portion of the area is unimproved and the portion that is improved consists of landscaping. The area presently exists as open space and is not, therefore, catalogued as a park in the park inventory. However, future plans for the unimproved area include a passive recreational area with landscaping.

### *Assessment:*

Upon development of this site as a park, it should be identified for use by visitors of the Natural History Museum, Cashman Field, and other nearby attractions.

## HILLS PARK

### *Description:*

Hills Park is located along Hillpointe Drive, west of Glenside Drive, and between the Ernest Becker Junior High/Becker Community School and the William R. Lummis Elementary School. The park, which consists of 13.5 acres, was dedicated in November, 1991. The park site is improved with two parking lots, a playground, picnic areas, an arbor, an amphitheater with grass seating, tennis courts, a volleyball court, and conversation pits designed with moveable chairs and small tables. Programming in this park includes a variety of stage events conducted over the past several years.

### *Assessment:*

The stage needs electrical work and the park needs lighting. These improvements are scheduled for 2000.

## HUNTRIDGE CIRCLE PARK

### *Description:*

This park is located in a central median along Maryland Parkway at Francis Avenue and consists of 3.14 acres. Maryland Parkway is a high volume, high speed arterial street which makes access to the park difficult. The park is a passive recreational area with an open field surrounded by two parking lots. A few mature trees are scattered throughout the park along with some picnic tables.

### *Assessment:*

The park has low functionality due to the adjacent high speed, high volume traffic on the street. Rerouting Maryland Parkway to one side of the park could result in a more useful neighborhood park.



## JAMES GAY PARK

### *Description:*

This park consists of 7.18 acres and is located on a narrow strip of land within the right-of-way of I-15, south of Owens Avenue. On July 12, 1999, the City Council approved a resolution designating James Gay Park as a “children’s park” to be used by children who may be accompanied by an adult. An adult not accompanied by a child legally may be escorted out of the park. The park is improved with playground equipment, tennis courts, basketball courts, picnic shelters, and picnic tables. Mature trees are located throughout the park.

### *Assessment:*

The park playground equipment does not meet current safety and access standards and should be upgraded.



## JAYCEE PARK

### *Description:*

Located at the southeast corner of Eastern Avenue and St. Louis Avenue, this park consists of 18.4 acres. The park was donated to the City by the Jaycee organization. The property is encumbered by an agreement that allows the Jaycees to construct a building on the site of the existing bocce court. This park is a major venue for Corporate Challenge events. The east portion of the park includes dual purpose soccer and baseball fields which are shared with the adjacent K.O. Knudson Junior High School. Other features of the park include a bocce court, horseshoe pits, basketball courts, a jogging track, picnic tables with barbecue grills, picnic shelters, a playground, and a restroom building.

### *Assessment:*

No future improvements are projected at this time.



## LORENZI PARK

### *Description:*

Lorenzi Park is located on the south side of Washington Avenue, one block west of Rancho Drive and consists of 59.37 acres. Located to the south, between U.S. 95 and the park, is a small residential neighborhood. Multiple buildings and activities occupy the large campus-like park. These include the Sammy Davis Festival Plaza, the Lorenzi Adaptive Recreation Center, the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, the Las Vegas Art Museum, and the Garden of the Pioneer Women/Scent Garden/Garden Club. Other, more typical park improvements include tennis courts, lighted baseball fields, a concession stand and restroom facility, picnic shelters, a jog-

### *Huntridge Circle Park*

ging track, a playground, open fields, a lake, individual picnic tables, and barbecue grills.

***Assessment:***

U.S. 95 is proposed for expansion that may require removal of all except one row of the houses to the south. The long-term viability of the residences should be evaluated in light of extending the park boundaries south to the future right-of-way of U.S. 95.

## **LUBERTHA JOHNSON PARK**

***Description:***

This park is located at Concord Drive and Balzar Avenue and has a circular configuration. The 1.6 acre park is improved with a playground with swings, a jungle gym, slides, and other climbing and play equipment. Some mature trees provide shade for the park grounds.

***Assessment:***

This park is undergoing upgrades, including new picnic areas that will meet current safety and access requirements.

## **MARY DUTTON PARK**

***Description:***

Mary Dutton Park, located on Charleston Boulevard at 8th Street, was donated to the city upon development of the adjacent single family residential subdivision. The 0.2 acre urban park is landscaped in desert landscaping with gravel and succulent vegetation. A chain link fence surrounds the park.

***Assessment:***

Use of this park has been hampered by its limited size and development options. The City has attempted to sell the property to the adjacent office site. The value of the park should be evaluated as to its long term viability.

## **MIRABELLI PARK**

***Description:***

This park is located on Hargrove Avenue, west of Jones Boulevard, and between the Northwest Area Command Post of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and the Mirabelli Community Center. The park consists of 1.41 acres. There is an existing trail along U.S. 95 adjacent to the north side of the site; access to and from the trail is provided along the north side of the park. The park features include a playground, picnic tables, barbecue grills, and an open play area. Some mature trees are scattered throughout the park.

### ***Assessment:***

The existing park could serve as a trailhead for the adjacent trail that extends east and west along U.S. 95. This park will be minimally affected by the widening of U.S. 95. However, diligence will be required to facilitate the inclusion of the existing trail in the proposed design and construction of U.S. 95.

## **NORTHWEST SOCCER COMPLEX**

### ***Description:***

This park, which is located at the northwest corner of Lake Mead Boulevard and Tenaya Way, was approved for development in 1999. The Buffalo Drainage Channel traverses the park and will be bridged to provide access between the east and west sides. The park is currently under development with 12 soccer fields (10 are to be lighted), a baseball field, two playgrounds, a concession and restroom facility, and parking lots all to be completed in 2000. The Cimarron Memorial High School is located on the northeast side of the park, and shared parking will be provided on the school property in cooperation with the Open School-Open Doors Community Access Agreement.

### ***Assessment:***

Upon completion of the development, this park will need to be evaluated for potential improvement needs. The Buffalo Drainage Channel could be provided with a trail that links existing and proposed future parks south of this site with existing and proposed future parks to the north.



## **PUEBLO NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS**

### ***Description:***

The property, extending between Lake Mead Boulevard and Rampart Boulevard, is an improved arroyo greenway with a trail and three neighborhood parks dispersed along its length. This property was donated to the City in May, 1993 by Summerlin Properties. At the time of donation, the park was considered one individual park. It is, however, more recognized as a greenway with a park trail and three neighborhood parks that total 5.09 acres. The trail consists of pavement and landscaping along both sides. Benches are provided along the trail for leisure purposes. The neighborhood parks contain playgrounds, picnic tables, walking paths, and a basketball court.

### ***Assessment:***

Opportunities for the trail include links to the Bruce Trent Park and Angel Park to the south.



*Hyde Essex Circle Park*

## **RAFAEL RIVERA PARK**

### ***Description:***

The Rafael Rivera Park is located along Stewart Avenue just west of Mojave Road and consists of 9.26 acres. This park was dedicated in November, 1997. Park improvements include a soccer field, a lighted baseball field, tennis courts, a playground, a picnic shelter, picnic tables, barbecue grills, and a restroom facility. Located northeast of the park is the Rafael Rivera Community Center and the Chuck Minker Sports Complex. The Rafael Rivera Community Center provides outreach services, including after school programs, senior citizens activities, and community meeting rooms. Programs such as karate classes, aerobics and fitness classes, and other recreational activities are offered at the Chuck Minker Sports Complex. All day programs, six days a week are provided at both the park and sports complex. The Roy Martin Junior High School is located west of the park and includes both a track break and a SafeKey program.

### ***Assessment:***

Stewart Avenue is recognized as a recreational corridor, extending west from the Chuck Minker Sports Complex, past the Rafael Rivera Community Center and Rafael Rivera Park to Hadland Park. A trail could be established along this corridor for recreation users who take advantage of the convenient access to each of these recreation sites.

## **RAINBOW FAMILY PARK**

### ***Description:***

The Rainbow Family Park is located east of BelCastro Street, between Oakey Boulevard and O'Bannon Avenue and consists of 26.48 acres. The park was dedicated in 1992 and contains five lighted baseball fields, a special events area, a jogging track, a playground, picnic tables, a concession stand and restroom facility, and spectator benches and score boards. A large parking lot is located along the west side of the park.

### ***Assessment:***

No future needs are anticipated at this time.

## **STEWART PLACE PARK**

### ***Description:***

This 3.45 acre park is located on Chantilly Avenue, just east of Marion Drive and serves the surrounding residential neighborhood with open space, swings, a lighted playground, and a covered picnic area. A few mature trees are scattered throughout the park.

### ***Assessment:***

This park has a large amount of open space that could be devoted to new recreational improvements or programmed activities.

## **W. WAYNE BUNKER FAMILY PARK**

### ***Description:***

The Bunker Family Park is located on Alexander Road at Tenaya Way and consists of 13.75 acres. The site is leased from the BLM. The park is improved with two playgrounds with swing sets, tennis courts, covered picnic areas, a jogging track, a volleyball court, and a horseshoe pit.

### ***Assessment:***

This park is proposed for expansion in 2000 with an additional seven acres that may include a rock climbing wall and skateboard/rollerblade activity area. The Bunker Family Park is located just north of the Gowan South Detention Basin Park which is proposed for soccer or baseball play fields. Immediately south of this basin park is the existing Buckskin Basin Park. All these parks should function as one group of parks with services oriented toward the three. A trail should connect all of the parks along Tenaya Way from Alexander Road to Cheyenne Avenue and farther south to planned and existing parks and schools, including Woofter Family Park, located at Vegas Drive and Tenaya Way.



## **WEST CHARLESTON LIONS PARK**

### ***Description:***

This park is located in a central median that has a circular configuration. The surrounding street is Essex Circle, and the connecting streets include Evergreen Drive, Fulton Place, Essex Drive East, and Essex Drive West. The park consists of 4.5 acres. A play field takes up most of the park area; the remaining area of the park includes swings, a play ground, picnic tables, and a volleyball court. Mature trees are scattered throughout the park.

### ***Assessment:***

The playground equipment does not meet current safety and access standards and should be replaced. Because this park is surrounded by a circular street, the traffic flow should be studied to determine whether pedestrian crossings are adequately signed for safety purposes. Additional trees lining Essex Circle would create a more attractive park.



*James Gay Park*

## **WILDWOOD PARK**

### ***Description:***

Wildwood Park is located at Shadow Mountain and Wildwood Drive and consists of 1.24 acres. This park provides a playground, swings, a tennis court, and a basketball court for the surrounding neighborhood. Mature trees are scattered throughout the park.

### ***Assessment:***

No future improvements are projected at this time.

## **WOOFER FAMILY PARK**

### ***Description:***

This 9.22 acre park is located at Rock Springs and Vegas Drive. The park was dedicated in January, 1993. Park improvements include a play ground, a splash area, and open fields. Recently installed trees are scattered throughout the park.

### ***Assessment:***

No future improvements are projected at this time.

## **SCHOOL PARKS**

The Clark County School District school grounds are available for public park use through the Open Schools - Open Doors Community Access agreement. The school sites are reserved for school use during regular school hours, but during non-school use, the City has priority use of gymnasiums, playing fields, classrooms, multi-purpose rooms, and auditoriums. Reciprocally, the School District may schedule use of City park sites. Table #15 lists the school park sites and those under the "Open Schools - Open Doors" agreement that are maintained by the City. Map #7 shows the locations of these schools under the agreement. Map #6 shows the locations of all schools.

**TABLE 15. SCHOOL PARK SITES**

SCHOOL PARK SITE	TURF MAINTAINED BY SCHOOL DISTRICT	TURF MAINTAINED BY CITY OF LAS VEGAS
Adcock Elementary School	X	
Becker Middle School	X	
Bell Elementary School		X
Bonanza High School	X	
Booker Sixth Grade Center	X	
Bracken Elementary School		X
Brinley Middle School	X	
Carson Sixth Grade Center		X
Christensen Elementary School	X	
Cimarron Memorial High School	X	
Clark High School	X	
Crestwood Elementary School	X	
Culley Elementary School		X
Derfelt Elementary School	X	
Deskin Elementary School	X	
Earl Elementary School		X
Edwards Elementary School		X
Eisenberg Elementary School	X	
Fremont Middle School		X
Fyfe Elementary School		X
Garside Middle School	X	
Gibson Middle School	X	
Gragson Elementary School	X	
Griffith Elementary School	X	
Hancock Elementary School		X
Hewetson Elementary School		X
Hoggard Sixth Grade Center		X
Hyde Park Middle School		X
Jacobson Elementary School	X	
Johnson Middle School		X
Katz Elementary School		X
Kelly Sixth Grade Center		X
Knudson Middle School		X
Lummis Elementary School	X	
Lunt Elementary School	X	
Madison Sixth Grade Center	X	
Martin Middle School		X
May Elementary School	X	
McWilliams Elementary School		X
Miller Elementary School	X	

**TABLE 15. SCHOOL PARK SITES CON'T**

SCHOOL PARK SITE	TURF MAINTAINED BY SCHOOL DISTRICT	TURF MAINTAINED BY CITY OF LAS VEGAS
Park Elementary School	X	
Parson Elementary School	X	
Piggot Elementary School	X	
Pittman Elementary School		X
Red Rock Elementary School	X	
Reed Elementary School	X	
Robison Middle School	X	
Ronnow Elementary School		X
Ronzone Elementary School		X
Smith Elementary School		X
Sunrise Acres Elementary School	X	
Tobler Elementary School	X	
Twin Lakes Elementary School	X	
Variety	X	
Vegas Verdes Elementary School		X
Warren Elementary School		X
Wasden Elementary School		X
Western High School	X	

# APPENDIX B

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS INVENTORY

Parks function as venues for various indoor and outdoor recreational, entertainment, and educational events in facilities such as leisure service centers and recreation centers. In addition to parks and recreational facility centers, programmed activities are held in schools and other non-park locations.

The Leisure Services Department provides program development, administration, and staffing for the recreational activities in city parks and other facilities. The programs are described below. The Department of Public Works staff is responsible for the design, construction bidding, development, and maintenance of the parks and recreational facilities.

### RECREATION FACILITIES

Recreational facilities are provided within centers and schools throughout the community. Some of these centers are located within parks while others are located at independent sites. In 1998, services were provided at the facilities listed in Table #16:

### ADAPTIVE RECREATION

The Adaptive Recreation Division of the Leisure Services Department provides specialized recreational opportunities to enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities and to persons of all ages and abilities. The purpose of adaptive recreation is to develop interest in adaptive techniques, foster programs that encourage participation in and promotion of various wheelchair athletics, promote workshops and clinics on equipment usage and wheelchair skills, and provide individuals with adaptive equipment and technological resources when needed. The specific classes, programs and activities include:

#### RECESS

Activities are provided for disabled children at local schools during their recess to help promote competition and recreational experiences.

#### FORMING LEISURE OPPORTUNITIES USING AQUATIC TECHNIQUES

Forming Leisure Opportunities using Aquatic Techniques (FLOAT) is a program that promotes participation and education in aquatics for people with and without disabilities. Recreational swimming programs include swim lessons, competitive recreational swimming, the H2O Hi-jinx Bus Camp for children, sailing, adaptive water skiing, paddling workshops, Black Canyon canoe trips, and Kern River raft trips.



*Jaycee Park*

## TABLE 16. RECREATIONAL FACILITIES CENTERS AND SCHOOLS

Adaptive Recreation Outreach Center  
 Baker Park Community School  
 Becker Track Break Facility  
 Brinley Community School  
 Charleston Heights Arts Center  
 Charleston Heights Neighborhood Preservation  
 Park Community School  
 Chester A. Stupak Community Center  
 Chuck Minker Sports Complex  
 Clark Community School  
 Derfelt Senior Center  
 Doolittle Community Center  
 Doolittle Recreation Center  
 Doolittle Senior Center  
 Dula Gym  
 Johnson Track Break Facility  
 Las Vegas Senior Center  
 Leid Community School  
 Mirabelli Community Center  
 Molasky Community School  
 Northwest Community Center  
 Northwest Family Leisure Service Center  
 Rafael Rivers Community Center  
 Reed Whipple Cultural Center  
 Robison Community School  
 Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza  
 West Community School  
 West Las Vegas Art Center

### HEADING ON

This is a program for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) survivors which offers opportunities for socializing, outings, and participation in community re-entry discussions. Meetings, special events, and outings are held weekly. Activities include swimming, movies, picnics, and classes focused on individual rehabilitation.

### LAKESIDE

Lakeside is a chapter of Disabled Sports USA which provides recreational programs and sporting activities for disabled persons and their friends. The Lakeside programs are Camp Malibu, Camp Cal, wheelchair basketball, quad rugby, and Over The Line (OTL) wheel chair softball tournaments.

## **LEISURE BUDDIES/PARTNERS ASSISTING WITH LEISURE TEAMS**

This is a program to assist persons in a variety of recreational opportunities, including canoeing, swimming, bowling, crafts and other activities.

## **LEISURE CONNECTION**

Leisure Connection is an extension of the New A.G.E. program that provides a higher level of transitional services designed to meet the needs of higher-functioning individuals with developmental disabilities. The program includes bi-monthly excursions to local attractions and events such as camping; to hockey basketball, baseball, and football games; on Lake Mead cruises; and dining out.

## **LORENZI ADAPTIVE RECREATION CENTER**

This is a year round recreation program offered for youth and young adults, seven to 21 years of age. Activities are designed to maintain and increase the participant's recreational and leisurely skills. Three sessions are offered throughout the year during the winter/spring, summer and fall. Daily programs include bowling, performing arts, aerobics/dance, arts and crafts, roller-skating, karate, basketball, and tennis. Special events include travel to the Mt. Charleston Snow Play, the Valentine's Dance, the Spring Break Bus Camp, the Easter Egg Hunt, Wet 'n Wild, slumber parties/camping, the Mountasia Fun Center, the MGM Theme Park, the Halloween Carnival, UNLV Football Games, basketball camp, and holiday events.

## **NEW A.G.E**

This is a program to provide adults with developmental disabilities the opportunity to gain leisure experiences through recreational participation. These group functions promote social interaction, leisure education, and self-awareness.

## **PROJECT D.I.R.T. (DEVELOPING INTERESTS IN RISK TAKING)**

This is a program which provides people of all abilities the opportunity to explore new recreation and leisure possibilities through alternative recreation and outdoor/adventure recreation and outdoor/adventure experiences. The program helps develop and maintain values needed for successful interaction; promotes cooperation within the family, peers, and the community; develops decision-making skills; and teaches acceptance of one's self and others. Individuals receive education and an opportunity to increase their repertoire of leisurely skills. Challenging courses include canoeing/kayaking, backpacking, camping, biking, rock climbing, a rope course, and day hikes.



*Lake Mead Tenaya  
Soccer Park*

## **RECREATION, EDUCATION, AND ATHLETICS FOR LIFETIME SPORTS**

This is a program which provides year-round organized sports for persons with developmental disabilities that will enhance leisure awareness, promote friendly competition, and provide educational opportunities and experiences. Sport activities include aquatics, soccer, snow skiing, basketball, and track and field. This is a nine month program with activities offered from September to May.

## **TEEN CLUB AND YOUTH COUNCIL**

These groups offer therapeutic and educational programs to promote a healthy, independent and well-balanced leisurely life-style. The Teen Club provides the opportunity for adolescents and children to transition from school into the community through community reintegration programs. The Youth Council's focus is on outings, service projects, and fund-raising.

## **CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

The Cultural and Community Affairs Division of the Leisure Services Department provides creative and satisfying use of leisure time through arts and humanities programs; focuses on the visual and performing arts with special attention to the nurturing of young talent; and addresses ethnic diversity, special populations, and audience development and education. These programs are provided at the Rainbow Company Children's Theater, Visual Arts Unit, Artreach Unit, Technical Support Unit, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, West Las Vegas Arts Center, and the Charleston Heights Arts Center.

## **RAINBOW COMPANY CHILDREN'S THEATER**

The Leisure Services Department sponsors a touring theater production for elementary and middle schools; classes for ages four to adult in theater arts; five complete in-house theater productions; workshops for teachers; guest artist workshops for school students; and support to local schools, theater companies, and community groups.

There are eight performances of five productions each year in February, April, October, and December. Art classes are offered in February, June and September.

## **VISUAL ARTS UNIT**

This unit provides programs and art exhibits throughout the community, including those shown below:

- The City Galleries which showcase 12 professional quality continuous gallery exhibitions;

- Educational programs for elementary, middle, high school, and college level students by professional artists and museum educators;
- Artist directed gallery workshops in galleries and schools;
- Transportation to workshops and gallery education programs;
- Meet the artist receptions and refreshments;
- Gallery talks and slide lectures by guest artists;
- Preparation and follow-up materials for the educational programs; and
- Artistically designed mailers and posters for gallery exhibitions that are distributed to gallery and cultural center patrons.

### **ARTREACH UNIT**

The Artreach Unit assists guest artists with such festivals at the Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza, the Hills Park, and miscellaneous locations.

### **TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

The Technical Support Unit provides assistance for performing arts events, the visual arts unit, meetings, and training sessions. These services include maintenance and consulting for the theater facilities and arts organizations.

### **REED WHIPPLE CULTURAL CENTER**

This center delivers over 150 classes in the performing and visual arts for children and adults. The guest art series, classical orchestra performances, and the Young Artist Recital series are held at the facility. A summer band and a civic symphony for professional and amateur musicians are arranged through this facility. The Las Vegas Civic Ballet Dance Academy and Dance Camp are offered for young teens and young adults through this facility. A cultural enrichment program is provided for at-risk youth through Child Haven, Adaptive Recreation, and Boys Town.

### **WEST LAS VEGAS ARTS CENTER**

This center provides youth programs for professional performing arts training. Approximately 200 classes in cultural, performing, and visual arts are offered yearly for children, teens and adults at the center. Six Community Gallery series offer open workshops in music at the center. Also, the center offers mentor programs in piano, steel drums, and dance. The dance studio and recording studio provide space to the community and youth groups. Two artists-in-residence assist with community classes, workshops and performances as well as leadership, cultural, and educational programs, including



*Lorenzi Park*

Black History Month, Kwanza, Juneteenth, A Day for Children, Spring Break Leadership Rap, the Neighborhood Film Festival, and the Art Carnival.

### **CHARLESTON HEIGHTS ARTS CENTER**

This center consists of a ballroom, theater, art gallery, and a conference room. Events held at the center include the Guest Artists Series, children's concerts, classes for children and adults, Big Band/Combo dances, choreographer's showcase, Mardi Gras Galore, Klezmer Band performances, Viennese Weekend, Rainbow Company presentations, and event rentals for groups and individuals.

## **RECREATION**

The Recreation Division of the Leisure Services Department provides recreational services for physical and intellectual exercise. The Division has six programming units including community centers, Community Schools, Aquatics, Community Sports, Seasonal and Special Events A-Team, and Administration and Support.

### **NEIGHBORHOOD, COMMUNITY AND LEISURE SERVICES CENTERS**

There are six centers located throughout the community, including Mirabelli, Doolittle, Rafael Rivera, Stupak, Northwest Community Center, and the Northwest Leisure Service Center. The Palo Verde Community Center is currently under construction. Each community center provides programs and services designed for the neighborhood population it serves. Some of these services include six-week classes for youth and adults in language, parenting, continuing education, computer skills, homework assistance, self defense, modeling, fitness, cheer leading, jump roping, gymnastics and dance, judo, soccer, pinochle, and other recreational activities. Some of the centers are designed with gyms, fitness rooms, weight rooms and game rooms. The gyms may be used by sports leagues year round during the day and evening. Meeting rooms are provided for community groups such as neighborhood associations, businesses, politicians, and community agencies. Organized summer camps are housed at the community centers. The facilities may be rented for parties, receptions, reunions, and similar occasions. Also, some of the community centers provide free breakfast and lunch daily for children up to 18 years old.

### **COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

The Community Schools programming unit operates under a cooperative agreement amongst the City of Las Vegas, Clark County School District, and each Community School's volunteer Board of Trustees. Each Community School is organized as a non-profit entity. Community Schools offer a variety

of programs, including community education, classes and workshops for all ages, sports leagues, contests and tournaments, and SafeKey before and after school at 55 elementary schools (2,300 children of working parents daily).

There are track break programs at Becker School, Trails School, Northwest School, and Johnson School. Track break programs consist of day-long coordinated recreation programs for children who attend year-round schools. Also included in the track break programs is the eight-week summer Kids Kamp for children who attend traditional nine month schools.

Currently, the Community School's staff offices are located in double wide modular buildings located on school campuses. The classes and workshops are held in the school classrooms or gymnasiums. Track break programs are held in separate buildings or in the modular buildings. The summer Kids Kamp program uses school district facilities, and the SafeKey program uses elementary school sites.

## AQUATICS

The City has an organized aquatics program that functions at nine swimming pools. At these pools, residents receive services such as swimming and diving lessons. Throughout the swimming season, there are competitive swim meets, synchronized swim meets, competitive diving meets, water polo matches, and special activities that are part of the Community Schools program. Corporate Challenge swimming events are held at the City pools. Lifeguard training and competition programs are also offered. In addition, pool rental for group and family events is available. Map #16 depicts the location of the pools.

## COMMUNITY SPORTS

The Community Sports function is to provide support to all groups regardless of age and sports ability. Coordinated league play includes:

- Year-round adult softball for approximately 12,000 players;
- Adult basketball for approximately 840 players;
- Adult coed soccer for approximately 750 players;
- Fitness activities at the Chuck Minker Sports Complex;
- Softball, baseball, football, and soccer programs for approximately 17,000 youth;
- Youth clinics in wrestling, tennis, soccer, and cheer leading;
- Summer camp at the West Community Center; and
- Daily mobile youth programs at seven sites.



*Lubertha Johnson Park*

## **SEASONAL AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

This programming unit oversees such programs as summer camps; holiday camps; sports clinics; league tournaments; community-wide theme events; excursions to Disneyland and other special attractions; field trips to movies, bowling, and similar activities; ribbon cutting events; Town Hall Meetings; neighborhood meetings; and customer service events.

## **SENIOR CITIZENS PROGRAMS**

The Senior Citizen Programs Division of the Leisure Services Department provides services for senior citizens that will help them maintain positive physical and emotional health and well being. The programming includes Senior Citizen Programming and the Senior Citizens Law Project.

### **SENIOR CITIZEN PROGRAMMING**

Classes, activities/services, workshops and special events for older adults are offered at senior citizens facilities, including the Las Vegas Senior Center, the Dula Gym, the Derfelt Senior Center, and the Doolittle Senior Center.

### **SENIOR CITIZENS LAW PROJECT**

This program provides legal services to residents 60 years of age and older, including the preparation of such documents as wills, power of attorney, and public entitlements; the prevention of elderly abuse; and the settlement of consumer disputes.

## **MARKETING**

A marketing unit is located under Administration in the Leisure Services Department. The staff of this unit administers cash and in-kind contributions made by the private sector for underwriting and subsidizing program costs. This staff is also responsible for radio and television support for department programs made through private sector sponsorships. The staff of this unit publishes Leisure Time, Prime Timers, Neon News and Views, and Corporate Challenge Update in addition to flyers and posters. This media is distributed by direct mailings, at information fairs, and at libraries and schools.

## **SWIMMING POOLS**

The City has nine swimming pools available for public use. Map #16 illustrates the location of these pools. Some pools are located within parks and adjacent to community centers and schools. Table #17 shows the seasonal attendance for 1999 through July 25th.

The Municipal Pool recently opened, and attendance figures are not yet available for that pool.

# MAP 16

## Parks Element

### Swimming Pools

- 1 Trails
  - 2 Northwest
  - 3 Brinley
  - 4 Garside
  - 5 Cragin
  - 6 Doolittle
  - 7 Municipal
  - 8 Baker
  - 9 Hadland
- @ Roy Martin Jr. HS

0 4700 9400 14100 18800



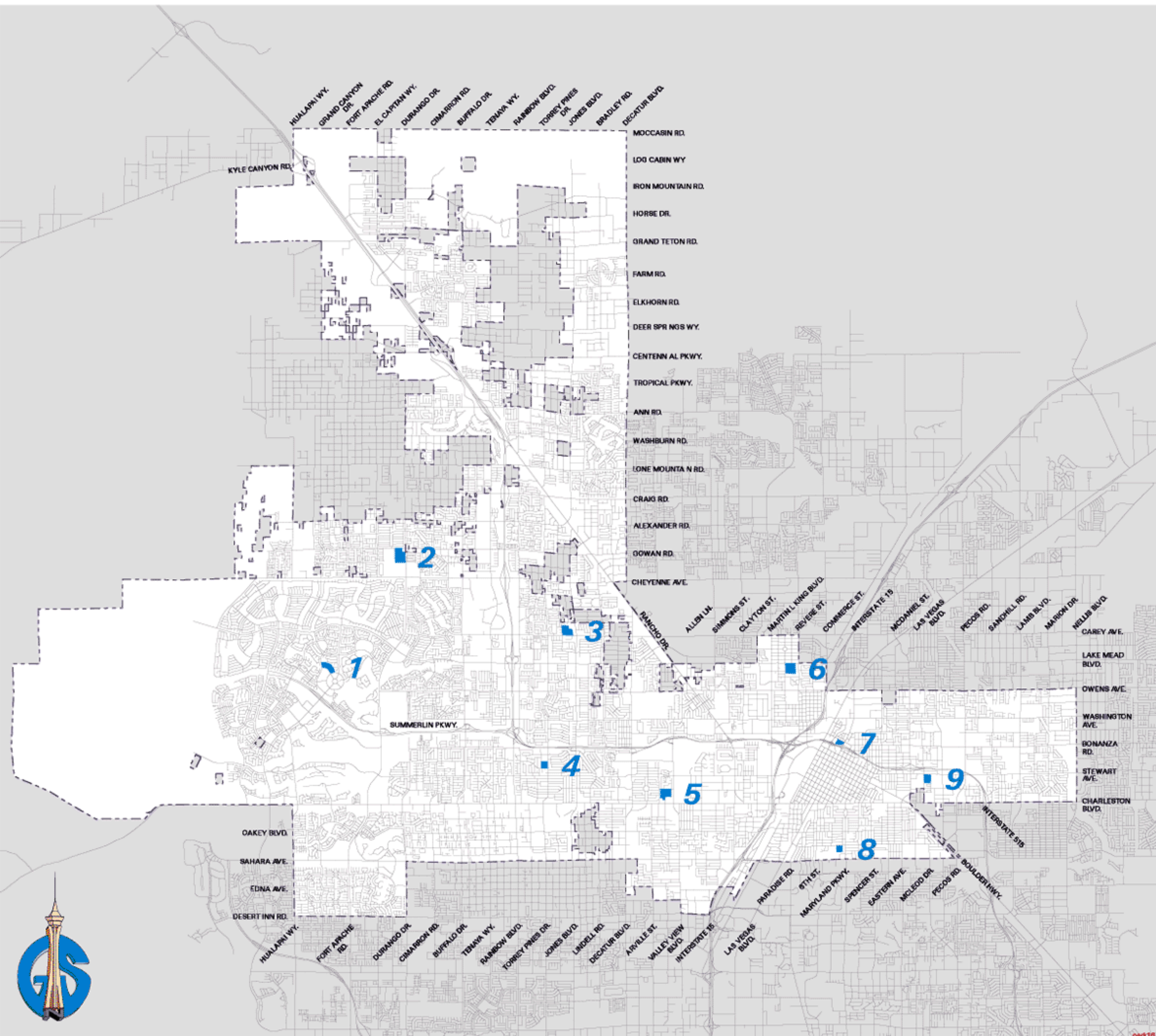
SCALE IN FEET



GIS maps are normally produced only to meet the needs of the City. Due to continuous development activity this map is for reference only.  
**Geographic Information System**  
 Comprehensive Planning  
 702-229-6022

March 23, 2001

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT  
 CITY OF LAS VEGAS  
 Development Services Center



Brinley Pool is not open to the public due to year-round school activities at Brinley Middle School. The attendance shown above represents the Brinley Middle School physical education classes and the City of Las Vegas Learn to Swim, Synchronized Swimming, and Water Polo programmed activities.

Baker Pool is located in Baker Park, adjacent to the Fremont Middle School. The pool is available for public use during non-school hours. A new locker room and restroom are scheduled for construction in 2000. That construction will allow the City to make the pool available to the public without requiring school access, as the locker rooms for the pool are currently located in the school building.

Cragin Pool, Garside Pool, and Hadland Pool are located at adjacent schools and are available for public use during non-school hours. Doolittle Pool, Municipal Pool, Northwest Pool, and the Trails Park Pool are located in City parks and are not encumbered by school hour limitations.

**TABLE 17. SEASONAL ATTENDANCE**

POOL	ATTENDANCE
Baker	3,835
Brinley	11,447
Craigin	5,063
Doolittle	2,725
Garside	9,961
Hadland	3,767
Municipal Pool	Not Available
Northwest	17,926
Trails Park	<u>10,356</u>
<b>Total Pool Attendance</b>	<b>65,080</b>



*Mary Dutton Park*



# APPENDIX C

## FUNDING

The funding for parks and recreational facilities are derived from a number of different sources. Existing and potential sources of revenues for parks and recreational facilities are listed as follows:

### EXISTING FUNDING SOURCES

#### GENERAL TAX REVENUE

This revenue source is one of the largest sources of funding for parks and recreational purposes. The revenue is derived from the imposition of primarily sales taxes and property taxes.

#### RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION TAX

The Residential Construction Tax (RCT) is derived from new residential development according to a formula that is equivalent to one percent of the construction value of a residential structure up to a ceiling of \$1000. The construction value is set at \$36 per square foot. The RCT is collected in funds, as land or as parks in lieu of funds or land.

The RCT is another major source of funding for parks development, as it is projected to fund about 42% of the fiscal year 2000 park budget. The limitations to this funding source are that these funds must be spent within the council ward in which they are generated and that the cost of housing must be high enough to provide an adequate level of funding. The RCT, therefore, funds only parks development for new growth and does not address existing shortfalls.

During the six-year period from 1994 to 1999, the City collected \$17.87 million in RCT's on 39,371 dwelling units constructed. This includes an increase in the construction cost in the last year from \$32 per square foot to \$36 per square foot. This amount does not include 15,333 dwelling units located in master planned communities that were exempt from the tax, because they were provided with private parks.

If the City is to provide parks which meet the demographic need of 2.5 acres of park land for each 1000 residents over the next 20 years, then another 1550 acres of park land over the entire community will be needed. At the average cost of \$250,000 per acre to develop land for parks, \$387.5 million will be needed over this time period.

The City is projected to add 151,158 dwelling units over the next 20 years from which approximately \$68.63 million in RCT's would be generated at the current average rate of \$454 per dwelling unit. Consequently, a shortfall of \$318.87 million



*Mirabelli Park*

will be needed from other sources to supplement this funding source. This amount does not include acquisition and annual maintenance costs.

If as a policy, it is reasonable to assume that all new development should pay for its proportional share of the cost for providing parks at the rate of 2.5 acres for each 1000 residents, then the RCT would need to be increased to cover the cost. This increase would have to be by legislative approval. Other funding sources would have to be pursued to pay for the current deficit in park area.

A total of 151,158 new dwelling units over the next 20 years would result in an anticipated population of 359,000 persons at the average of 2.5 persons per household unit with a 95% vacancy rate. For this population, 898 acres of park land needs to be provided at a cost of \$224.5 million to develop. For this amount of park land, there would be a shortfall of RCT's of \$155.87 million (\$224.5 million - \$454/dwelling unit). If the RCT were increased to provide parks for all new residents, then the percent in the construction value would have to be increased from one percent to approximately three percent.

Because the present formula has a \$1,000 limit to the amount of RCT's that may be collected, it is a regressive tax. The square footage of houses over approximately 2,800 square feet is not taxed, resulting in more expensive houses paying for less of the cost for parks. Eliminating the ceiling of \$1,000, would lower the percent that would need to be collected from each dwelling unit and make the tax less regressive.

## **GRANTS**

The federal government offers grants in the form of Community Development Block Grants. These funds are available for the development of parks, but they are usually of a limited amount and have qualifying constraints that limit their applicability.

Other grants are available but are limited in use specifically for trail development. One such grant is the TEA-21 grant administered by the Regional Transportation Commission.

## **LVCVA**

The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors' Authority provides a voluntary annual grant to the City that is used for parks purposes. It should be noted that this is a voluntary contribution on the part of the Authority and not a guaranteed amount.

## **GENERAL REVENUE BUDGET**

Some funds are made available for recreational purposes from moneys collected via general fund augmentation. These funds are City revenues generated from a variety of sources

that have not been used for other purposes. It should be noted that these funds are variable and do not constitute a guaranteed annual amount.

## **BONDING**

Bonds for recreational purposes currently take many forms. Recently, the City Council approved a medium-term bond which does not require voter approval. It is backed with a two percent property tax increase. This \$25 million bond will finance recreational improvements, new construction, and completion of construction of 11 separate recreational facilities. The bond is to be repaid within a 10-year horizon. The facilities are listed in Table #18.



## **PUBLIC/PRIVATE ARRANGEMENTS**

Public/private arrangements can be very beneficial. Monetary or in-kind contributions, however, must ensure access to parks and recreational facilities by the general public.

## **GIFTS**

Gifts of land or money designated for parks purposes have provided a source of funding, but such gifts are unfettered and unrestricted and the application of names to a park or facility recognizing a benefactor or family must follow approved City policy.



## **FUND RAISERS**

Fund raising has been done for a very limited number of minor projects. Such funds are generally directed toward facility development rather than for land acquisition.

## **POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES**

The following funding sources are sources that generally have not been used for financing the acquisition, development and improvement of parks. To fund the parks program in the future, the following financing mechanisms should be explored:



### **GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS**

General Obligation Bonds must be approved by the voters. Such funds are not geographically limited and, therefore, are an important source in addressing the recreational needs in existing neighborhoods.

### **PARK DISTRICT FEES**

Some communities have initiated a fee for entrance to parks. The park district fees are established so non-residents are charged for using local parks while residents are admitted free of charge. In areas where one jurisdiction provides a park

*Pueblo Park*

**TABLE 18. PARK BOND PROJECT LISTING**

<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>ORIGINAL FUNDED PLAN</b>
1	Ann / Cimmaron Park	275,000
2	Buckskin Basin Park	1,500,000
3	Doolittle Leisure Center	3,000,000
4	Buffalo Park	5,500,000
5	"Metro" Park	3,000,000
6	Baker Park	2,500,000
7	Bunker Park	1,900,000
8	Elkhorn / Durango Park	3,000,000
9	West Middle School	800,000
10	Clark High School	700,000
11	Gowan South Detention Basin Park	3,000,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>25,175,000</b>

system more desirable than the surrounding areas, the demand for use by non-resident users can be significant. Consequently, the community responsible for the park carries the financial burden of developing, maintaining and operating the park for non-residents

## **PARK ENTRANCE FEES**

Park Entrance Fees operate similar to Park District Fees except that all users are charged for entrance to the park. These fees are primarily established for regional parks and are used to finance the operation of regional parks. When such fees are applied to local parks, low income residents may be deprived of their use.

## **TRANSFER OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS (TDR)**

TDR is a concept devised long ago to give a property owner the right to develop property in a certain way in exchange for the dedication or granting of land to the City that the property owner has in another part of the community. This method is an in-kind way of obtaining park land without having to identify a funding source to purchase it. This same concept could be very beneficial in the establishment of park sites, particularly in older developed areas where there is a need for parks. In exchange, the property owner, whose land is granted to the City, would be given the right to develop other property at, for example, at a higher density or for a different land use.

## **RECREATION AND PUBLIC PURPOSE ACT (R & PP) CONVEYANCES**

The Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (Act) permits the BLM to lease land at nominal cost to the City for "recreation and public act conveyances." This is the prevalent method the City uses to obtain land from the BLM for parks, particularly in the northwest sector where an abundant amount of land is owned by the BLM.

The use of property under an R & PP may at some time in the future be abandoned, as the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) has the right to terminate a conveyance until such time as a "patent" is issued. A patent is a legal instrument the Federal government uses to convey land to others by quit claim deed. There is no record of the Secretary terminating a conveyance to land used for parks and recreational purposes, but it is recommended the City procure patents from the BLM so lands are preserved for perpetuity for parks.

If the City acquires land under an R & PP in an area that is later determined to be in a poor location for a park, the City may exchange the land with a property owner who has land in a more optimal location. According to the Act, a "transfer of re-



*Rafael Rivera Park*

versionary interest” permits the interest in land that is secured under an R & PP to be transferred to non-federal lands. If the non-Federal land to which the transfer is made is of less value, an amount equal to the difference in fair market value of the lands must be paid to the Secretary.

While the Transfer of Reversionary Interest was intended to allow shifts or adjustments in the location of lands for public purposes to sites within a relatively short distance of say a thousand feet, the process may be used to a great advantage for obtaining land for parks in older areas of the community. For example, land owned by the BLM in the northwest sector could be secured for parks and recreational purposes and that interest transferred to a site of equal value in the southeast sector where a park is direfully needed. The land in the northwest sector would then be made available for private development. In this manner, an R & PP is another method for acquiring land without identifying a source of funds to purchase the land.

### **ACQUISITION AT REDUCED OR NOMINAL COST**

On occasion, parcels of land are disposed of by the County when the property owners fall delinquent in paying the property taxes owed on the parcels. At that time, there may be an opportunity for the City to acquire land at reduced or nominal cost, often for the amount of the back taxes. This method of park land acquisition can be very beneficial in older parts of the community where there is a need for parks and avoids having to locate a source of funding to purchase them. Quite often, however, parcels being disposed of will not meet the criteria of this plan document, as they are either not in the right location or not large enough for neighborhood parks.

# NOTES:



*Rainbow Family Park*



*Stewart Place Park*



*Wildwood Park*



*Woofter Family Park*